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World Reformation Activities of the Dark
God — Loving Humans So Much, I
Reincarnated in One —

Arc 6: Heroes of the Past

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Chapter 174: Feedback of completion

Hearing a *hyun* sound of cutting the wind, the target was hit right in the middle.

“Fuwaa~, amazing!”

And looking at this from the side where the safe zone is, there’s Karen-san and I -Kuromiya Haine.

On top of that, at the side of that target, there’s already several targets that were pierced in the middle as well.

This is all something that was achieved by one person. Truly the very definition of certain hit.

“Amazing, Hyue-chan! Your hit rate is a 100%!” (Karen)

Karen-san who was overcome with emotion was calling to Hyue who looked like a speck from where we were, but of course, the other side didn’t react.

“A-MA-ZING~! HYUE-CHAN!!!” (Karen)

Karen-san, even if you increase the volume of your voice, it won’t work. With that distance, it won’t reach.

Even so, the speck looks like she noticed we were trying to say something, she rode her flying machine and headed towards our location at several times the speed than when using one’s feet. But even with that, it still took her plenty enough time to count to 30.

“What’s wrong, Karen-dono? Was there any problem?”

“That’s not it. I said that Hyue-chan was amazing.” (Karen)

The girl that had her glossy black hair tied up, Toreido Hyue. The wind hero that had become our new comrade just a few days ago.

The wind gun, En no Ozuno, is quite different from the other divine tools that the other churches possess. From its cylinder-shaped area, it shoots out compressed air, and it is able to shoot through targets that are faraway.

It seems like the wind gun that she uses is specialized in sniping far away things, and even in the sniping training area that was prepared in the Light Church especially for her, we couldn't find out her true skill.

After all, we have already seen it many times, but her accuracy rate is 100%.

"No, it helps me out. In the Wind capital, due to the structure of the city, we can't create that big of a sniping field. I wanted to confirm the full-power of this wind gun that had been adjusted for hero use." (Hyue)

"Full-power...were you able to confirm it? You shot through all of them right at the center so easily, so it might have not been enough for Hyue-chan..." (Karen)

"No way! I can't even begin to express how much gratitude I feel for Karen-dono and the Light Founder-dono! You approved of our change in the secrecy policy that we have been so adamant about for long, and you even accepted my abroad studies after I became a hero!" (Hyue)

That's right.

Hyue, who had recently become a hero, had her first job that is to visit all the other churches.

The Wind Church were the type that would thoroughly hide everything about themselves. However, that was cut off as a relic of the past battles between the five churches and they are beginning to work in creating a new path.

The new wind hero, Hyue, is the very symbol of the rebirth of the Wind Church.

By appealing her existence, they are trying to strengthen the cultural exchange between the Wind Church and the other four churches, and she is currently in the middle of the visits.

She is currently staying at the Light Church's base in the Light capital, Apollon City.

The light hero, Kourin Karen, was in high spirits at being the host.

"But Haine-san, as I thought, Hyue-chan's sniping skills are incredible! There's no doubt that she is the one with the highest attack range from all heroes!"

(Karen)

Karen-san says towards me in excitement.

She was praising Hyue so much that the person herself was bright red in embarrassment.

“That’s true. From the heroes of the five churches, first of all, there’s Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan who are frontliners; Celestis is specialized in mid-distance battles, and if I had to put her in a category, it would be support type; Karen-san is an all-rounder that can enter any category though. There certainly hasn’t been one who is such a specialized long-ranged type until now.” (Haine)

“There’s finally going to be a supporting firepower that we can entrust with our backs in the Hero Alliance! It makes it even more perfect!” (Karen)

In group battles, seeing the battle from a backed away place will allow them to look at the situation as a whole, and if needed, that person can take the role of main leader, which makes a long-ranged attacker necessary.

The ability of Hyue is the last piece that fills up the hole that Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae-chan couldn’t fill.

It looks like the Hero Alliance will be formed in a more perfect shape than expected.

“No, wait please. I am still inexperienced. I am far from the previous wind hero, Aniue-sama.” (Hyue)

I don’t know if it was from humbleness or she really thinks that way, but Hyue said something unreliable.

“This time, the hit rate was good because it is simply a training field. In this pre-arranged setting where I can snipe at my own pace, having a 100% hit rate is obvious, however, reality is a different story.” (Hyue)

Hyue has a stiffness that the other girls until now didn’t have.

“In real combat, there’s no environment where you can snipe at your own pace. The situation is constantly changing, and there are accidents and obstructions made by the enemy. The sniping will in some way be pressured and will make the trigger finger slip. The true snipers can brush away all that

pressure, and no matter what harsh winds they are faced with, they will shoot through the target with certainty. I am always aiming for that goal.” (Hyue)

I see. It is true that this situation where there’s no noise in the way can only be found in a training field. Hyue is clearly aware of that, is able to see the difference between real and training scenarios, and is trying to bring out the experience of her trainings in real combat.

She is a diligent girl.

A diligent girl that has not been present in the heroes until now.

“I got it! If that’s the case, in the next training, let’s try adding noise then!”
(Karen)

Karen-san is trying to bring out something crazy again.

“In the middle of your sniping, we will do something that will affect Hyue-chan’s concentration! Let’s test if you will be able to hit the target even with that!” (Karen)

“You do have a point. It definitely isn’t a bad idea to understand the limits of my concentration before actual combat. Karen-dono, thanks for noticing that possibility! As I thought, there really is merit in sharing opinions with others!”
(Hyue)

Karen-san and Hyue exchange a firm handshake.

“And so, you say that you will be disrupting her concentration in the middle of her sniping but, what are you planning on doing?” (Haine)

When I ask, Karen-san does a ‘Hm...’ as if pondering.

“...Fondle her breasts?” (Karen)

Oi.

Why did that come out?

“I see! Not only are we going to deal with noise regarding the sense of touch, we will also be tackling the feeling of shame as well! Even if it is just training, it would be pointless if it is just some small noise. Rather, we should expose the body to big changes in order to not falter in any situation!” (Hyue)

Hyue as well, don't go seriously analyzing it.

She is so serious that no matter what kind of joke they throw at her, she would take it seriously huh.

"Understood. Well then, who will be touching my breasts while sniping?"
(Hyue)

"Hm?"

For some reason, the gaze of Hyue met with mine.

"N-Nooooo!! Haine-san fondling the breasts of Hyue-chan is a total no! Haine-san is a man, you know?!" (Karen)

And Karen-san loses her cool.

"But if we think about the objective being disrupting my concentration, it would be more effective if we were to ask that of a member of opposite gender." (Hyue)

"That doesn't mean you can have anyone fondle your breasts for the sake of it! It would decrease your value as a woman! Hyue-chan, treasure yourself more!" (Karen)

"Isn't what Karen-dono saying contradicting itself?" (Hyue)

Yes, that's exactly right, Hyue-san.

And so, as our reception with the wind hero was going well.....the fire hero, Katak Mirack, suddenly arrived, and...

"Karen, Haine, help me!!!" (Mirack)

Said this.

Chapter 175: Problem Emerged

The Light capital Apollon City and the Fire capital Muspelheim are pretty close in location and it is to a point that they can even be called neighbors.

Because of this, the fire hero Katak Mirack, who is based there, would regularly come to the Light capital to deepen her friendship with Karen-san.

But the visit in this day was different from the visits she normally does.

Because the expression she was making was clearly a dire one.

“W-What’s wrong, Mirack-chan? Were you cursed?” (Karen)

It was to the point that the first thing Karen-san said when receiving her was that.

It was a truly agitated expression.

If we were to talk about Mirack, what comes to mind would be that within the five heroes, she is the most manly one out of all. Her face is always filled with ambition, and yet, today, none of that was present.

It was as if she were washed in despair.

For now, we received Mirack in the tea party that we had opened for Hyue and had her take a seat.

We served her tea, but she hasn’t taken a single sip even when it was cooling already.

It felt as if her mind wasn’t here and was simply silently watching her own face reflected in the tea.

“Just what in the world happened to Mirack-dono? Even I who have not known her for long can tell that she is acting strange.” (Hyue)

“I also have no clue.” (Haine)

I can tell that she is acting strangely, but I can’t tell at all what is making her act this way.

And then, while we were confused, Mirack finally let out some words.

“Karen, Haine, please help me!” (Mirack)

“Eh?”

A sudden request for rescue.

Really, just what’s going on?

“It is not only Karen-dono and Haine-dono here though; I am also present.”
(Hyue)

“In this occasion, Hyue is fine as well. Please save me!” (Mirack)

“‘In this occasion’?! ‘Is fine as well’?! Really a harsh outlook on the newcomers!” (Hyue)

Hyue-san, please hold back for now.

At any rate, right now, I want to hear the details from Mirack.

“At this rate, the Hero Alliance might dissolve!” (Mirack)

“Eeeeh?!”

The first one to instantly scream at that statement was Karen-san.

Fire, water, earth, wind, and light heroes joining forces to fight monsters; its name is the Hero Alliance.

It serves as an effective way against the monsters, and it is also an important method to create an impetus to increase the cooperation between the five churches that have been fighting with each other until now.

After welcoming the last member -the wind hero Hyue-they have finally begun to mobilize, and yet, she is suddenly saying that it will fall?

“W-What does that mean, Mirack-chan?! The Founder of the Fire Church was incredibly in favor of it, wasn’t he?!” (Karen)

Karen-san is practically the creator of the Hero Alliance, so that made the shock bigger.

Now that the plan of subjugating the Mother Monsters is in progress in order to eradicate the monsters from the surface world, the Hero Alliance is even more important.

If they were to say that it is now dissolved, it would confuse me as well, you know?!

“Obviously! My master the Fire Founder commended the cooperation between heroes from the very beginning. That’s why the ones against it inside the church were restrained...however, just that person was...!!” (Mirack)

“That person?”

It was at that moment.

The door was kicked open, making a *Bam!* sound.

“Karen-chi~~! Haine-chi~~! Listen to this~!!!” (Celestis)

“Celestis-chan?!” (Karen)

The representative of the Water Church, the water hero Celestis.

...But she suddenly jumped into the room while crying?!

Just like that, she hugged Karen-san.

“This is important! Emergency! Things have gotten hectic!!” (Celestis)

What’s with this girl as well so suddenly?

The parlor room is already a crucible of confusion.

“Oi! Don’t suddenly go intruding, Idol Woman! I am currently having an important talk with Karen!” (Mirack)

“That can be left for later, She-male! My business is a lot more important than yours after all!!” (Celestis)

Mirack and Celestis bickered with each other since the beginning.

It looks like both sides are holding problems of their own, and they are both scattering sparks.

“My side is more important!” (Mirack)

“Mine is more of an emergency!” (Celestis)

“”It might be impossible to make a Hero Alliance after all!!”” (Mirack+Celestis)

!!

Eeeeh?!

Could it be that both of them are cornered with the same problem and came to our place because of that?

Just what's going on?

"C-Celestis, don't tell me...your place as well?!" (Mirack)

"And Mirack-chi too? What is going on? Why did that person appear at this point in time?!" (Celestis)

"It was the same for our place as well! I thought that was a person from the past already. That person...I had even forgotten about it already, and yet, it suddenly appeared today!" (Mirack)

"It was as if a dead person had crawled back from its grave! Just rest in peace already!" (Celestis)

"Seriously! Truly good grief!" (Mirack)

I don't understand what's going on at all, but from the wording, I can tell that Mirack and Celestis are sympathizing with each other. The both of them were hugging and crying.

"These two that were getting so hyped over entering an alliance have become like this?! Just what in the world..." (Haine)

This doesn't look like a trifling matter!

Really, what happened? I can't tell at all from what they are saying, and so, just as I was about to press them to explain it already...another change occurred, moreover, it was the most violent of all that happened today.

A wall of the room was destroyed with a *Dogon!*.

"Gyaaaaa!!"

"The wall was broken?!"

Moreover, at two spots at the same time.

What! Seriously, just what in the world is happening one after the other!

A person appears from each of the two holes; in total, two people entered the

room.

“Truly pathetic. Is this really the figure of the water hero that represents the Water Church-desu no?”

Is what the right person said.

“Asking for the help of an enemy church hero, moreover, to hug and cry. Since when did the fire hero become such a wimp?”

Is what the left person said.

“Celestis-san.”

The right person says.

“My apprentice Mirack.”

The left person says.

“It looks like the standard of a hero was too heavy for you.”

“Looks like I didn’t wring out enough out of you to have you act as hero.”

The ones who appeared were two women.

Their looks seemed to be from people on their first to half of their twenties, and from the pressure they are releasing, I can tell immediately that they are not regular people.

“Ah, those people are—!” (Karen)

“You know them, Karen-san?!” (Haine)

“I have seen them before. Those two are the heroes that came before Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan!” (Karen)

“Eh?”

In other words, the heroes of the previous generation?!

“The previous fire hero, Abi Kyouka-san; the previous water hero, Ra Sarasa-san.” (Karen)

That means that in this Light Church headquarters, the new and old fire and water heroes have gathered?!

Chapter 176: Returning leaders

In this world, the title of hero is incredibly specific.

From the earth, water, fire, wind, and light church, each one of them choose their respective strongest divine power user, and they lead the other warriors to fight against the monsters. Fight monsters and protect the people.

That's what heroes are, and that's the hero's duty.

And so, it has been close to a hundred years that the monsters have appeared, and has continued being that way. Of course, there's no way a single human would be able to continue on active duty for so long.

In history, there have been many people who have received the title of hero from their predecessors and taken their place.

And so, the current heroes are Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, and Hyue.

There's obviously going to be previous heroes that have fought just like them.

If it's the previous generation, they probably hold the same amount of power compared to the present active heroes.

And so, the ones that are currently in front of us are exactly that, the previous generation heroes.

The previous fire hero, Abi Kyouka.

As expected of the senior of Mirack. Her body is well-formed and muscular, however, her gaze is a lot sharper than Mirack's, and it makes it even more likely to mistake for a man than Mirack.

The water hero, Ra Sarasa.

It looks like she got along well with the current hero, Celestis, and has an air of elegance and charm. The gesture of hiding her mouth with a folding fan made it feel like she had the refinement of a noble.

Those two speak.

“...Hm, the Light Church’s headquarters huh. This is the first time I have stepped in it but, just as I thought, it stinks of mold.” (Kyouka)

“Truly a church whose only trait is its age. No matter if mold grows or spider webs appear, do they think that it is fine to just be old?” (Sarasa)

You were the ones who came raiding this place and you say that?!

“To think that the fire hero would run into such a mold stinking hole like this, what is the meaning of this, Mirack?” (Kyouka)

“U-Uhm...you see...!” (Mirack)

Mirack has turned pale and is trembling?!

“What’s wrong? If you have something to say, say it without reservation.” (Kyouka)

“K-Kyouka-anesan! The era is progressing and we can’t always be fighting each other!” (Mirack)

“Don’t spew out excuses!!” (Kyouka)

“Guhoooh!” (Mirack)

Unreasonable physical violence?!

Mirack was kicked and sent flying?!

“Pathetic! This is pathetic, Mirack! You had quite the prospects even within my juniors, so I left you with being the successor, but it looks like I was completely mistaken. To think that you would forget about the duty of a hero and go into wagging your tail to others!” (Kyouka)

Wagging her tail.

“You have perpetrated the same offence, Celestis-san.” (Sarasa)

This time it was the previous water hero that was reprimanding the current hero.

“From the beginning, there were voices of discontent in the church regarding you. They said that you dared to play being an idol, and that maybe you are neglecting your main job as hero. But you didn’t stop at that, this time, you even tried holding hands with the enemy. How outrageous. Even the esteemed

people of the church and I as well can't forgive this, you know?" (Sarasa)

"...Tch, what a noisy gold-digger." (Celestis)

"Did you say something?" (Sarasa)

"No, nothing at a~ll!!" (Celestis)

From the conversation they had, I began seeing the issue here little by little.

"Please wait!" (Karen)

It looks like it was the same for Karen-san. She jumped into the conversation as if she couldn't endure it anymore.

"Could it be that you two are reprimanding Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan because of the Hero Alliance?!" (Karen)

"That's right." (Kyouka)

"We came here to crush this so called Hero Alliance." (Sarasa)

The Hero Alliance where the five heroes will join strengths to fight against monsters.

This was something impossible to think of with the common sense we have had until now. Because the heroes originally didn't get along with each other.

In the past, the five Churches were stealing believers from each other, opposing each other, and there was even a time when they were at war.

Because of the enemy of all humans -the monsters-appearing, it naturally ended and became hazy in that sense, but even with that, the view of the churches towards each other is still that of looking down and antagonizing. 'We are the superior church', 'the other four are lower than us'.

The previous heroes must have had that kind of thinking deeply edged in themselves.

"A few days ago, a message came to me. This is what it was written. 'The current heroes have thrown away their pride and are trying to hold hands'." (Kyouka)

"A similar thing happened at my place as well. I was surprised when I received the notice. The junior that I believed and entrusted with the job, to think that

she would do something akin to stepping on my good will.” (Sarasa)

The previous heroes said without hiding their anger.

“That stupid friendship; there’s no way I can overlook it as a former hero.”
(Kyouka)

“I may have already retired, but I do feel a sense of duty and obligation towards my church. There’s no way I can just not correct the mistake that my junior has made.” (Sarasa)

So it really was about that huh.

The reason why Mirack and Celestis said that the Hero Alliance might not be possible to form, that’s because the previous heroes had heard from somewhere about the Hero Alliance, and were trying to revoke that.

“Why?! The Hero Alliance means that the heroes cooperate to fight against monsters! Rather than fighting alone, it is more efficient to fight by uniting all five of us and that will allow us to protect the people from monsters better! What about that is a mistake?!” (Karen)

For Karen-san, the Hero Alliance was a task that she placed her all to accomplish.

There’s no way she can stay calm after being denied that.

““Of course it is a mistake.””

But the former heroes rejected that.

“First of all, you guys are mistaking what you should be prioritizing. What a hero should truly be protecting is the authority of the church. The Fire Church that Mirack and I are affiliated to is the most superior one in the world. The hero fights in order to prove that.” (Kyouka)

“Didn’t you mean to say ‘the Water Church is the one that is the most superior in the world’?” (Sarasa)

Fierce sparks scatter even between Kyouka and Sarasa.

Even if the objective they came here for is the same, these two are in no way friendly with each other.

“In my opinion, the reason why you have to cooperate is because you are all weak. A true hero is strong. Because a hero is strong, they are able to protect the people even by themselves.” (Kyouka)

“Right. Trying to hide your own weakness with fancy words like ‘cooperation’, that in itself makes you a failure as a hero. As I thought, I will have you relinquish your title as hero right here and now.” (Sarasa)

Agitation ran through the current heroes as they heard those words.

“Mirack, relinquish your seat as hero. It looks like you weren’t appropriate to be the hero.” (Kyouka)

“You as well, Celestis-san. You should quickly return the title of hero that is way too heavy for you, and just go and play idol without the need of worrying about anything else.” (Sarasa)

The words of their seniors made the light in the eyes of Mirack and Celestis change. From the light of fear, it changed into hostility.

However, this didn’t apply only to those two.

“You say that, Abi Kyouka-san.”

“What.” (Kyouka)

The previous fire hero looks at me.

That’s right, the previous. She is already a person of the past.

“From what I remember...the reason why you retired from your post of hero was because you lost against the Fire Cow Phalaris, right?” (Haine)

“Ugh!!”

That is a story I heard when we went ourselves to subjugate that very Fire Cow Phalaris.

The giant monster, Phalaris, that was exercising its authority in the vicinity of Muspelheim. Its power was mighty, and the Fire Church tried sending subjugation teams many times, but they all failed and were turned their tables on.

“T-That’s true! I learned about my own powerlessness, so I relinquished my

title as hero and left on a journey to strengthen myself. In order to one day defeat the Fire Cow and vindicate my honor.” (Kyouka)

“Ohohohoho~~, what a pitiful weakling-san.” (Sarasa)

“What did you say?!” (Kyouka)

This is something that I knew already, but the previous heroes are really in incredibly bad terms.

But right now, there’s a more important thing.

“Don’t you know? That Fire Cow Phalaris has been defeated.” (Haine)

“W-What?!” (Kyouka)

“The ones who defeated it were the ones there, Mirack and Karen-san.”
(Haine)

Chapter 177: Advocacy of the young

The Fire Cow Phalaris.

The biggest monster currently known that was properly confirmed by the five churches.

Its strength was also top class, and the Fire Church send subjugation teams several times, but they received a crushing defeat every time and escaped.

But the threat of the Fire Cow is gone now.

It has already been subjugated after all.

“Subjugated by the hands of the fire hero, Mirack, and the light hero, Karen-san.” (Haine)

“What stupid things are you saying?! There’s no way these two weaklings would be able to defeat that monster!!” (Kyouka)

“It is the truth. The fire hero and the light hero
cooperated

and defeated the Fire Cow Phalaris that you couldn’t defeat.” (Haine)

...And so.

“Can you say it again? Who is stronger than who? Small fry hero-san that couldn’t defeat the Fire Cow Phalaris –no, the former small-fry hero-san? Or maybe hero small-fry-san is better?” (Haine)

“Gununununu!!”

I thought I might have said a bit too much there, but I didn’t feel like loosening my hand here.

This is the bond that Karen-san and the others have risked their life to create. And yet, people that are trapped in past conventions are trying to destroy this? There’s only one option, fighting back with all we have.

“Kyouka-anesan.” (Mirack)

I was about to give my next attack, but Mirack interjected.

“It is true that we were the ones who defeated the Fire Cow Phalaris. There’s definitely no way I would have been able to defeat it on my own. It is thanks to the cooperation of Karen and Haine there that we were able to defeat it.”
(Mirack)

“Mirack! You are still saying such bullshit?!” (Kyouka)

“And with that in mind, I want to say something. Times have changed. The heroes can’t move only thinking about their own church anymore. Those kind of heroes are the ones that are a failure as heroes!” (Mirack)

As expected of the current hero. When she is not only trembling, she does have a sharp tongue. And that is obviously not something that only applies to Mirack.

Celestis also stands up trembling.

“Fashionable resident of Hydra Ville, Sarasa-san. You also know as well, right? The incident with the Great Sea Dragon that occurred recently. You married into a famous and noble mercantile family, so there’s no way you would be estranged from information, right?” (Celestis)

“W-What about it?” (Sarasa)

She is talking about the giant water element monster that intruded on the Live of Celestis, the Great Sea Dragon, Hydra Serpent.

That monster, that attacked because of the Water God Coacervate, had created a giant tsunami and was about to destroy the whole Water capital, but the ones who managed to save it in the nick of time were the light, fire, and water heroes.

“Has a monster stronger than that Great Sea Dragon appeared in your active days? From what I remember, there’s none~. That Great Sea Dragon as well, without the help of Karen-chi and Mirack-chi, it wouldn’t have been possible to defeat it. Are you saying you would be able to defeat that? On your own?”
(Celestis)

“Uuh...”

“If three heroes were not in that place at that time, Hydra Ville would have

been destroyed by now. You and the house of your husband would have been swimming in the sea at this moment~. I will be saying this as well. The times have changed!” (Celestis)

The feelings of the new era that the old ones wouldn’t understand.

It looks like there’s no need for me to say anything more. Karen-san seems to be calming down as well.

“Fire Cow Phalaris and the Great Sea Dragon, and also the four Mother Monsters. Since the time we were made heroes, for some reason, there have been monster calamities of the highest class. In order to deal with those and reduce the casualties of the people, the work of each hero on their own is by no means going to be enough.” (Karen)

But before Karen-san fought the Fire Cow Phalaris and the Great Sea Dragon, there haven’t been similar others of those class before.

In other words, Kyouka and Sarasa finished their active days by only defeating the infinitely produced monsters of the Mother Monsters.

“We are in no way holding hands to deceive our own weakness. It is in order to overcome the difficulties that we wouldn’t be able to overcome otherwise. But that doesn’t mean we are holding hands against our will. We, the current generation heroes, respect each other and love each other.” (Karen)

“...Kuh.”

“Wu...”

The speech of Karen-san that couldn’t be more straightforward than that was not letting Kyouka and Sarasa find any words to refute it.

There was someone who came to my back and whispered to me.

“...I was wondering what would happen for a moment there, but it looks like it will go well. As expected of Karen. She could say all that even against Kyouka-anesan.” (Mirack)

“The one who blew the horn to counterattack was Haine-chi though. These couple are seriously strong and invincible with their mouth and their fist.” (Celestis)

“I am a complete newbie...and couldn't say anything at all...” (Hyue)

Mirack, Celestis, and Hyue; you girls should also be showing sharpness here. They somehow managed to oppose them slightly by riding on the opportunity we created though.

“But you know, there's no more awkward existence for a hero than their predecessor. We have to show respect to them, and in essence, they are our superiors.” (Celestis)

“For me, on top of that, I am also her pupil. Since the time I joined, she has looked after me, and she thoroughly knows my weaknesses. I don't feel like I can win. It is truly a blessing that Karen and the others are here!” (Mirack)

For them, their predecessors are really a natural enemy huh.

But in the end, that applies only when in the same church. Karen-san is steadily cornering the outside former heroes.

“If you have no other opinions, please take your leave. Leave the problems of the present world to the currently active heroes.” (Karen)

Looks like the match is over.

When Mirack and Celestis came over crying, I was trembling in fear wondering what was the matter, but I am glad it ended up as a small problem.

...Is what I thought...

“I can't leave it to you; you girls that just glance at illusory dreams.”

A new voice resounded in the parlor room.

A voice I don't know at all, and a person I have seen for the first time.

“Y-You are—?!” (Karen)

Karen-san was stiffened at the arrival of this new person, as if she had met her nemesis.

“Long time no see, Karen-san. I am originally not in a standing that would have me step into the Light Grand Church anymore, but due to the amount of uneasiness you as the successor give to me, I had no choice but to return.”

The new person that appeared...is a blond short-cut haired woman. Her age

seems to be similar to that of Kyouka and Sarasa, moreover, her atmosphere feels somewhat similar to that of Karen-san. Depending on the way of seeing it, you could even say that their atmospheres are the complete opposite.

Could it be that this woman is...!

“The previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates-sama?!” (Karen)

Chapter 178: Dark Light Woman

She vaguely resembles Karen-san. Even so, she isn't like Karen-san at all.

She is truly a strange woman that applies to both of these statements.

There's parts that resemble each other, but there's even more parts that are completely opposite.

If I had to put it in words, it would be a 'Black Karen-san'.

However, the clothes she is wearing, the accessories, her hair, and the color of her eyes don't have a single black component, and yet, I got that impression from her.

"What's with that Black Karen?" (Mirack)

"Or more like, Dark Karen-chi?" (Celestis)

Mirack and Celestis seem to have gotten the same impression.

The arrival of this mysterious woman, in what way will it affect this situation?

"The previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates-sama?!" (Karen)

Karen-san mutters this as if faltering.

Is that the name of that pseudo-Karen that has a black presence coming out of her? Moreover, another previous hero?

What's with today? Is this a festival of previous heroes?

"Long time no see, Karen-san. Since the time I retired, right? I was unable to attend your hero ceremony after all." (Ates)

"Why...are you here?!" (Karen)

The attitude of Karen-san in the face of this Ates that looks to be in her twenties was something I something I haven't seen before. How to say it, it is as if a small kitten had encountered an adult female cat.

If Karen-san had a tail in her rear, there's no doubt that all of its hairs would be standing up.

“My junior was so disappointing, I had to come here to put an end to it.”
(Ates)

“Eeh?!” (Karen)

Karen-san shouts in surprise.

“Could it be that you too came here to talk about the Hero Alliance?!” (Karen)

Then it would be the same as Kyouka and Sarasa over there.

What in the world is going on?

Reacting to the current heroes joining hands, all the past heroes have begun to move all at once?

“Lately, there have been many voices speaking out to me, you know?” (Ates)

Is what the previous hero says as she mixes sarcasm in it.

“They said that current hero is way too arbitrary in her actions and it is too much to deal with, and that you are trying to destroy the old conventions. There have been so many complains coming to me that I can’t overlook it anymore, so I decided to stand up to it.” (Ates)

“There’s no need to do that.”

A new voice resounds in the parlor room.

For a while now, there has been a radical increase in the amount of people here!

“Ah, Yorishiro-sama?! ” (Karen)

“The Light Founder!” (Mirack)

“It is Yorishiro-chi!!” (Celestis)

Several people call the name of the new person that appeared -the Light Founder, Yorishiro.

She can be said to be the leader of the Light Church, and even without that, she is a person that possesses prudence, foresight, and beauty; there’s no person that can remain calm when encountering her.

And yet...

“Ara, Yorishiro-sama, it has been long.” (Ates)

Ates-san doesn't look like she is getting agitated at all.

She is a former light hero, so she should at least be acquainted with Yorishiro. There's no way she doesn't know about how fearsome that woman is.

“I have heard that you have been doing a lot lately, so that popularity reaches my ears everyday even when I have already retired.” (Ates)

“What you want to say is bad reputation, right? Ates-san, when you relinquished your title as the hero, you promised you wouldn't be stepping into this Light Grand Church ever again. I won't let you say that you forgot.” (Yorishiro)

“Of course, Founder. The affection that I received from you, this Sunnysol Ates hasn't forgotten about it for a single day.” (Ates)

“In that case, depart from this place at once. If you continue being so disobedient, I can order to have you thrown out not only from the Light Grand Church but also from Apollon City.” (Yorishiro)

An incredible amount of sparks suddenly began scattering!

The sparks were flying so violently that all the other people watching were scared and stepped back. Even I have already retreated to the wall.

“Karen-san, Karen-san!” (Haine)

I silently circumvented towards Karen-san.

“Just who in the world is she? That Ates person, why is there such an explosive mood here?” (Haine)

When I asked this, Karen-san answered with a pained expression.

“Sunnysol Ates-sama. Just as I said before, she is the one who was in the position of hero before me. She is an incredibly excelling person, and in her active days, she defeated several hundreds of monsters alone. Everyone said that her name would remain in the history of the Light Church.” (Karen)

But Karen-san continues.

“Ates-sama suddenly stopped being a hero and left the Light Church just as

suddenly. The one who was appointed as the light hero after her was me. I have practically not heard anything about her even in my days as an apprentice hero and have had no interactions with her before.” (Karen)

She is more and more of an ominous hero now.

Especially while looking at her figure that is straightforwardly facing Yorishiro head on.

“...Founder Yorishiro-sama, I have not forgotten my gratitude towards you. That’s why, I can’t just silently look at the distress that the Light Church is currently in.” (Ates)

“Distress...you say?” (Yorishiro)

“Right now, the Light Church is on the verge of falling –by the hands of a part of people that want to rewrite the past conventions.” (Ates)

That is of course referring to us.

She is most likely talking about the Hero Alliance that Karen-san is trying to make reality.

“For the Light Church, the Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind Churches are enemies just like the monsters. And yet, joining hands with them and getting along with them? That’s an action that goes against the Church’s ideals. That Karen-san there is taking the initiative of doing that even though she is in the position of being a hero, and not only has Yorishiro-sama not reprimanded her, I heard that you are actually endorsing it.” (Ates)

“Go on.” (Yorishiro)

“The people inside the church that think of its well-being have all unanimously come to me to express their displeasure. If the current hero and the Founder have both stepped in the wrong path, they had no other person to rely on but me. And so, I had no choice but to appear before you like this.” (Ates)

“Those two as well?” (Yorishiro)

The gaze of Yorishiro was directed at the other former heroes, Kyouka and Sarasa. The two are trembling just like the time when the current heroes first

met Yorishiro.

“We are talking about you here, so you must have thought that the more pawns the better and had them involved in this as well.” (Yorishiro)

“Wa?!In that case, could it be that the notice telling us about the Hero Alliance was your doing, Ates?!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka roars as she asks, but Ates didn’t falter one bit.

“I don’t know what you are talking about~.” (Ates)

She simply smiled. How wicked.

“Well, you were more useless than I expected, and it proved that the heroes of the trash churches are, as I thought, trash as well.” (Ates)

“Ates-sama!!” (Karen)

Karen-san speaks out boldly.

“As I said before, by having the heroes cooperate, we can manage to oppose the monsters in a more effective way! That way we can protect even more people—!” (Karen)

“Karen-san, that very thinking of yours is incorrect.” (Ates)

Ates says cold-heartedly.

“What the heroes protect is the Church’s authority.” (Ates)

“Ugh!!”

“By having the people be saved by the hero, they will respect and light up their religious belief towards the Church that the hero is affiliated to. The hero fights for that sake. What you say is the very definition of mistaking the method and objective.” (Ates)

“But—!!” (Karen)

“A group is often a brittle thing. There are times when it would easily crumble by losing their old conventions, their authority. Karen-san, what you are trying to do holds the danger of ending the Light Church. Do you properly understand that?” (Ates)

Being gazed straight by Ates, Karen-san was unable to say anything back.

As I thought, even for Karen-san, the former hero is also a natural enemy.

“The people that you say must be protected, they are able to live in peace thanks to the church. Is creating chaos in society with your narrow perspective also a duty of a hero? It looks like you have absolutely no self-consciousness that you are hero. Isn’t that right, Yorishiro-sama?” (Ates)

Being directed a disgusting gaze, Yorishiro speaks indifferently.

“Ates-san and the others, I understand now that you are displeased with the measures of the current churches. It is obvious that change invites opposition. The previous heroes being the ones taking the forefront in the old conventions’ side might, in a way, be inevitable.” (Yorishiro)

Meaning that the old conventions are chanted by the past people huh.

“Then this should be the best opportunity. Whether it is a person or an organization, it is impossible to continue concentrating forever in one thing. The time will come when the old ones that don’t fit the requirements of the era must be replaced for the new. This is the moment for that.” (Yorishiro)

“...Are you saying this is the best opportunity to prove that?” (Ates)

“That’s right.” (Yorishiro)

“And how will you be proving that?” (Ates)

As if they already knew what the both of them would be saying from the very beginning, the conversation continued smoothly, and Yorishiro spoke the conclusion.

“Obviously, by fighting.” (Yorishiro)

Chapter 179: Beginning of battle

“Dividing the teams into current heroes and previous heroes, we will be having a match. How about ‘the one who wins will have their opinion pass’?” (Yorishiro)

“””Eeeeehhh?!!!””””

“”Eeeeh?!!””

The current hero and previous hero teams were shocked by it. The only one who was calm about it was Ates.

“That’s unexpected. Yorishiro-sama, who would always make careful preparations in order to achieve her objective, has decided on such an impulsive match like this.” (Ates)

“The ones who win at the end are not the ones who don’t neglect preparation, but the ones who can adapt to the flow.” (Yorishiro)

“Whatever. But why did you make it a team fight? If we are to put an end to all this in a match, shouldn’t it be enough with a one on one fight with Karen-san and me?” (Ates)

Saying this, Karen-san who was standing at my side had her shoulders quiver.

“Don’t misunderstand. The Hero Alliance has the approval of all the five current Founders of the Churches. If you want to cancel the Hero Alliance, you will have to convince them all.” (Yorishiro)

“And I am saying that’s being domesticated though. Kyouka-san, Sarasa-san, that’s how things are. What are you going to do?” (Ates)

“”Eek?!””

Being suddenly called, the previous fire and water heroes get surprised.

“If you don’t want to, I don’t really mind, you know. I can easily wring the neck of these greenhorns by myself after all. If you two are scared of fighting with your already dulled arms, you can go to the spectators seat and tremble there obediently.” (Ates)

“Don’t get conceited, wicked hero! Leaving aside the other half-assed bunch, my pupil Mirack is not one to so easily fall! If I don’t take the stage, you wouldn’t be able to do jack-shit! If it’s a battle, I will be rampaging!” (Kyouka)

“I have to accept the challenges that are being sold to me, or I would be a disgrace of a Hydra Ville merchant. This is a good chance to confirm if Celestis-san has dulled with all that playing around as an idol.” (Sarasa)

Mirack and Celestis stiffened their faces and went ‘Uwaaa~’ at that.

But those former fire and water heroes, aren’t they being controlled skilfully by that wicked light hero?

“Well then, now that the talk has been wrapped up, I will have you let me stay here for today. Whichever the case, there’s the need for time and preparation in order to make that fight an official one. Isn’t that right, Yorishiro-sama?” (Ates)

“Fine. We will be telling you the time and place when it is done.” (Yorishiro)

Once again sparks flew around, and the face off of Yorishiro and Ates finished.

Before leaving the room, Ates stops her steps in front of Karen.

“Karen-san, that’s how things have ended up as. Let’s fight with all we have in the designated date.” (Ates)

“U-Uhm—!” (Karen)

“I think that you are not worthy of being the light hero. I plan on proving that in this fight.” (Ates)

Saying this, Ates left the room this time for sure.

Kyouka and Sarasa followed fit.

“Be prepared, Mirack. That lukewarm tenacity of yours, I will be beating it down at that day until it turns into shape!” (Kyouka)

“I will also be taking my leave here, Celestis-san. In order to, at the very least, not make it an embarrassing defeat, cancel all your idol plans and concentrate on training.” (Sarasa)

Is what they said as they left.

Seeing them off, the current heroes Mirack and Celestis reacted by saying...

“Sis was oozing the aura of a small fry!” (Mirack)

“They were poured the pressure of Yorishiro-sama and the former light hero after all. Are you saying that the previous heroes were so whipped when dealing with the Light Church?” (Celestis)

Even so, I think that Mirack and Celestis are also being smoothly dealt with by Karen-san, in the good sense of the way, or at least that’s what I want to believe is how it is.

“...And so?”

The storm passed and we are now in the parlor room of the Light Grand Church.

Now that the previous heroes have left, the amount of people has finally lowered.

“The weakling smell has gotten thinner and it is finally easier to breath.” (Celestis)

“The sudden jump in the average age of this place has finally stabilized to normal numbers.” (Mirack)

Mirack and Celestis go ‘fuihi’ as they laugh.

Was the pressure and stress from their senpai’s really that much? But it looks like even the outsider also felt it. The wind hero Hyue who was trying to join the conversation said...

“Wow, that was tensing. I couldn’t keep up with the conversation and, in the middle of it, I turned into air.” (Hyue)

“Truly a wind hero.” (Mirack)

“Truly a wind hero.” (Celestis)

Truly a wind hero.

“But what are we going to do about this? Isn’t a match a bit too much all of a sudden?!” (Haine)

While I was cleaning up the wreckage that was left when the former heroes destroyed the wall, I reprimand Yorishiro regarding the duel.

That Yorishiro was nonchalantly drinking tea.

“...This is an event that I predicted.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh?”

“The five churches have been at their throats for a long time. At the time when the churches were established, they stole many worshippers from each other in order to offer as much prayers as possible to their Gods, and there was even a period when churches were at war. Since the appearance of monsters and ethereal, the fighting had drawn back in the surface, but even with that, there hasn’t been a single moment where the churches have gotten along with each other.” (Yorishiro)

“But that is about to change, right?” (Haine)

“That’s right. Thanks to the effort of these young heroes here, the relationship between the churches is rapidly increasing favorably. It is also due to the fact that we have mutual enemies that are the Mother Monsters and the Demon Lords, but all churches uniting as one has not occurred even once in all of history.” (Yorishiro)

But that’s exactly why...

“There will always be people who will go against something that has no precedent. The heroes are the face of the church. It is hard to ignore that influence even for the people that have already retired. Knowing that the ones that have caused this change were the current heroes, they have no choice but to have the former heroes shoulder the responsibility of stopping it.” (Yorishiro)

That means there’s someone pulling the strings in the shadows?!

“In other words, this is not simply a fight to see who is in the right but...!”
(Haine)

“A pure political conflict.” (Yorishiro)

And in reality, even if we were to only look at the Light Church, there’s the Cardinal, Archbishop, and the Aurora Knights’ General and also several other

high-ranked knights. Due to them being born in a good family, they have obtained high positions.

If the five churches cooperate and the fight against the monsters seriously begins, just by requiring them to show their abilities in a situation that needs them to, it would trouble them heavily.

If we change to a new system, the dissatisfactions of the people that have gotten used to the old system would be many.

“We have begun a fight to eradicate monsters. For the sake of that, we will be joining hands with the heroes that have been enemies until now, and that will better the situation between churches. By doing something we have not been able to accomplish before, we have made a big step.” (Yorishiro)

Okay?

“Even so, the future prospects are bleak. The existence that has been born from the Mother Monster, the Demon Lord. To identify the identity of that, we have gathered the strength of all churches, but there have been no tangible results yet. In the middle of that, a problem appeared, not in the monster related side but in the human side.” (Yorishiro)

Thanks for explaining the situation.

“I want to use this opportunity to bring out to light all the ones who are against this change.” (Yorishiro)

“...Ah, could it be that that was why Yorishiro-sama challenged the former heroes to a match?” (Celestis)

Yorishiro nods at the question of Celestis.

“That’s right. The puppeteers in this occasion will use many means in order to have the previous heroes win. The ones who move are enemies. They are the insects that are squirming inside us... Everyone...” (Yorishiro)

“““Y-Yes?!””” “-Dasu!”

The current heroes tremble in unison.

“Understand that this is a fight we can’t avoid. By winning this, proof that you are in the right. I will find every single enemy that is lurking in the shadows. By

overcoming this difficulty, we will do one more step towards peace!” (Yorishiro)

Chapter 180: Enquiry about the previous generation

“Fuwa~, Yorishiro-sama be in fire-dasu! Her political conflict spirit be showing its full color-dasu!”

Is what the earth hero, Gonbee Sasae-chan says as she directs a gaze of admiration towards Yorishiro.....Hm?

“Why is Sasae-chan here? She wasn’t here until a moment ago?!” (Haine)

“What ya saying, Haine-niichan? I arrived together with Doraha-san and Yorishiro-sama-dasu yo.” (Sasae)

“Yes, Haine-sama.” (Doraha)

Now that I look properly, even Doraha was standing at her side.

Leaving aside Doraha who has completely become an attendant of Yorishiro, why is Sasae-chan also together with Yorishiro?

“I will explain it, Haine-sama.” (Doraha)

It looks like Doraha will be taking that job.

“At the previous incident in Rudras Metropolis, there was apparently something that meshed well between Yorishiro-sama and Sasae-san regarding the treatment of the captured people, and are now hitting it off.” (Doraha)

Eh?

“‘I have found something shining deep inside of Sasae-san’, is what Yorishiro-sama said and decided that she will be inheriting her scheming abilities. We were about to open a study session with Sasae-chan. At that moment, we heard that the hero Ates had appeared.” (Doraha)

Wait a second there.

Sasae-chan is already being taught by the grandma that is said to be the strongest earth hero in history. And you are telling me that, on top of that, Yorishiro will be teaching her scheming?

Are you planning on creating a brutal and demonic superhuman?!

And at that moment, Yorishiro and Sasae-chan had begun talking.

“Sasae-chan, let’s do a review of today. What is the motto of the Light Church?” (Yorishiro)

““Forget about inconvenient things’-dasu!” (Sasae)

No good. She is already beginning to get infected, into the demonic Sasae-chan!!

.....

Well, let’s leave that problem for later. Right now, we have to concentrate on a more direct matter.

“By the way, Sasae-chan, can you please help repairing the wall that the previous heroes destroyed?” (Haine)

“That be super easy-dasu. Using the rubble, fill in the holes and...[Combine]! Just like new-dasu!” (Sasaed)

How convenient.

“Then, let’s talk about the important thing. About the current and previous heroes having a match.” (Haine)

“Yes?” (Yorishiro)

“Can they win?” (Haine)

Honestly speaking, in this kind of matches, there’s the need to have the confidence of saying that in 10 matches, you can win 10 times.

The one who wins will be in the right, so if Ates and the other previous heroes win, the Hero Alliance will dissolve and the reconciliation of the five churches would also go back to square one.

On the other hand, if the current heroes were to win, it would mean that the talk about the Hero Alliance will continue to stand. All Founders have accepted it, so it means that by fighting, more acceptance will be gained.

Putting it bluntly, there’s little profit and big risk.

“The previous heroes are already retired people, right? In that case, their peak time should have passed already, and the current heroes should be the

stronger ones, right?” (Haine)

“...Heroes are the face of the church.” (Yorishiro)

Yes, I have heard that many times.

“As the representative of the church, they help in creating a better image, and the heroes must be strong and elegant no matter the time. Because of that, all heroes are beautiful girls and are chosen to be around their teens.” (Yorishiro)

I look around the place.

Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, Hyue; the average age should be around 14. That’s also because Sasae-chan is bringing down the average by herself though.

“But there will be a time when looks and fighting power decay. The church has the tendency of having someone take over when the hero has surpassed their growth peak before she messes up. So, the heroes normally retire when they are 20-22 years old. At latest, it would be 25. The heroes that have come here today were around that age too.” (Yorishiro)

It is true that Ates, Kyouka, and Sarasa said that they were the previous generation heroes, but in terms of age, they simple had that adult charm in them and were still oozing with youth.

“There’s actually more heroes that have gotten stronger after retiring than the contrary. Those three surely fall in that category. Even by just having a glance at them, I could tell that the aura they had was not that of someone who had forgotten about battle.” (Yorishiro)

Oioi.

At worst, doesn’t that mean that they might be stronger than the current heroes?

Teenagers versus adults; thinking about it normally, the adults win in body build and the amount of experience gained.

There’s the need for more time before we are able to add ‘decay’ in the victory factors.

“In general, that’s how it would go. Now, the problem will be with the

individuals though..." (Yorishiro)

"...My Sis, Abi Kyouka..." (Mirack)

As if cutting into the words of Yorishiro, Mirack begins speaking.

"Is said to be the strongest disciple of my master Enou." (Mirack)

The current leader of the Fire Church, Enou-san who is famous for his 'let there be hot-bloodedness', was a General in the Ignis Militant corps.

In his days when he led the Ignis Militant corps, he also guided several fighters and raised them to be strong or even more than that.

The Mirack that is standing before us is also a disciple of his.

That's why she calls the previous fire hero as Sis.

"Sis Kyouka was someone who had excelling talent. Master also acknowledged that talent and placed more effort in his teachings with her. Master, who has now become the current Founder, is thoroughly holding back the ones against the Hero Alliance, but the reason he is unable to do that with Sis Kyouka is due to the circumstances I previously stated." (Mirack)

"You are saying that he can't do anything against his cute disciple?" (Haine)

"What's with that? Isn't that favoritism?" (Celestis)

The disruption that Celestis mixed in ended with no reaction.

"B-But Mirack-chan was also chosen as the fire hero, so you shouldn't lose in talent..." (Karen)

"Did you forget already, Karen? I didn't have talent from the very beginning. That's why I had no choice but to cover for it with effort. Straining effort that even made me forget my friendship with you." (Mirack)

She probably remembered a bitter past, Mirack made a self-deprecating smile.

"The reason I was able to become a hero was because Sis Kyouka lost to the Fire Cow Phalaris and retired. I was simply the only one who fit the bill for successor, that's all there is to it. Moreover, there's no doubt that Sis Kyouka has trained harshly in order to vindicate for her defeat against the Fire Cow.

There's no way she is weaker than in those days." (Mirack)

She has talent and puts in effort as well huh.

But the most serious matter is that Mirack has a complex regarding her senior Kyouka. Kyouka and Mirack are disciples of the same master.

In a way, a senior might be an existence that has mixes of respect, fear, deep affection, and hatred that surpass that of their master.

"The previous water hero, Ra Sarasa, is a nasty woman." (Celestis)

Celestis speaks next.

"She is a by-the-book water hero, and it is exactly because I am doing something unconventional that she sees me as an enemy." (Celestis)

It would actually be as if Celestis herself was screaming: 'let me be your enemy'.

"It has been an unwritten rule that the water hero should marry into a big merchant family, that has influence and assets, when she retires. It is a political marriage in order to tie the church with the financial world. Sarasa as well, she married a prominent foreign trader in Hydra Ville and is enjoying a celebrity life. That's probably why she is looking down on me even more." (Celestis) <Oh, so Celestis called her a gold-digger not a widow, got it. Fixed!>

"..."

Is it my imagination that I saw a faint stiffening in her expression when she was speaking?

At any rate, next it would be about the previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates...

"Let me explain about her." (Yorishiro)

Chapter 181: Ominous remains of light

“The motto of the Light Church is ‘forget about inconvenient things’. Well, that was half-joking, but if there’s a person that embodies this statement, there’s no doubt it would be Ates-san.” (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro said as if it was a joke, but it didn’t sound like much of a joke.

On the other hand, the current light hero, Karen-san, was simply staying silent and listening.

“There’s probably people who have heard rumors already, but I obtained this position of Light Founder by...kicking down the previous Light Founder, my father. My father, in his time as a Founder, tainted his hands with dishonest actions, and in order to have him take responsibility, I had him retire.” (Yorishiro)

I feel like I have heard about that before.

“I will be omitting what dishonest actions he did, as it would be a scandal for the Light Church, but those dishonest acts had the hero at that time, Ates-san, involved. In the time I took the place of my father, I had her make a decision.” (Yorishiro)

“Decision?” (Haine)

“Step back by her own volition, or have someone else take her title. She chose retirement without a single moment of hesitation. She wouldn’t be a hero anymore, but with this, there will be no more sins added, and on top of that, she will still receive the many compensations that retired heroes receive. She had calculated this.” (Yorishiro)

“Meaning that, the hero Ates is that kind of woman?” (Haine)

“That’s right. She is a woman that doesn’t act unless she has calculated it minutely. In that sense, it can be said that she is the complete contrary of Karen-san who has moved purely with her natural virtue.” (Yorishiro)

“Ah, that’s...” (Mirack)

“I understand it completely...” (Celestis)

The description of Karen-san that Yorishiro gave out had Mirack and Celestis nod immediately.

“In the time she retired, she must have had a path to make a big turnabout by facing me, and yet, Ates-san didn’t take that risk. When the winning chance is low, she obediently accepts defeat, and lived a life of obscurity until now.”
(Yorishiro)

“Then, the reason why she moved now was because...” (Haine)

She judged that this is the time to do a counterattack?

“I wonder. But we have to be careful about her. This very situation of several former heroes taking action might be the picture she was trying to draw.”
(Yorishiro)

Have the old conventions preservation faction of the churches as her allies, put them together, and use them as her own fighting force. Is she trying to defeat the current political powers and make herself take that place by using that fighting force?

If that is the truth, Ates is utilizing the situation in a frighteningly skillful way.

“Ates-san herself has, in a sense, a clear head for politics after all. The title of hero was simply a step in order to obtain political power. She is a woman that would do anything in order to obtain political power -as long as it doesn’t endanger herself.” (Yorishiro)

“I...don’t want to lose!”

The one who shouted as if wringing out her voice was Karen-san. Those eyes of hers were burning with the light of resistance.

“I don’t want to lose to someone like that. A person that only uses the title of hero for her own sake...I definitely don’t want to lose!” (Karen)

“B-But...there’s no need to get so worked up about it, don’t you think?”
(Celestis)

Maybe because she was overawed by Karen-san who was burning in anger to unexpected levels, Celestis made a dry laugh.

“It has been decided that it will be a fight of the current heroes vs the previous heroes. The ones that came from the previous generation today were only the light, fire, and water heroes; but in this side, we have the earth, water, fire, wind, and light heroes -all five heroes are gathered. Just by going at it normally, we would be winning by numbers.” (Celestis)

Now that she puts it that way, she does have a point.

It is still unknown how this match will be done, but there’s no way higher numbers will become a disadvantage.

“Of course-dasu! If it be a war, it of course be Gonbee Sasae! I’ll be doing my best-dasu!” (Sasae)

“I will cover your backs.” (Hyue)

Sasae-chan and Hyue seem to have plenty enough motivation.

In a team battle, the highest bottleneck would be the quality of the teamwork, but in that point, there’s nothing to worry about with these girls. The bond that these girls have tempered through many battles will become their strongest weapon.

In that case, the strength in numbers will only be an advantage for us.

“Uhm...what about me?” (Haine)

I tried raising my hand.

“You are not an official hero, so you are an outsider this time around, right? Just step back!” (Celestis)

“That’s right. Relying on you all the time would affect us as heroes. I will show you that I can defeat my senior with my own hands!” (Mirack)

And I was bluntly rejected.

It looks like this fight will be purely of heroes against heroes.

But even so, the direness in the face of Yorishiro was not falling off.

“But, will it really go so smoothly? We are talking about Ates-san here. There’s the possibility that she has already made a move with the Earth and Wind Church...” (Yorishiro)

Is she implying that the previous earth and wind heroes will also be appearing?

“The previous earth hero, you say? Uhm, I don’t think I would be able to defeat that Oba-san though...” (Celestis)

Is what Celestis says as she trembles.

She must be talking about the Oba-san of Sasae-chan that is now the Earth Founder.

That Oba-san was called the ‘Taker by the roots’ in her young days and is considered a legendary class hero.

“Ba-chan be the hero seven generations back-dasu yo. The previous earth hero be my cousin, Yoneko-nee-chan-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Heh~, what kind of person is she? This is just in case but, is she good at fighting?” (Haine)

“She married last year and retired-dasu. I be selected as her replacement-dasu. But if I remember correctly, Yoneko-nee-chan be expecting her third child to be born soon, so I don’t think she can swing around a weapon-dasu!” (Sasae)

.....

.....Hm?

“Eh? Wait a moment. You said that she married last year, and yet, she is expecting a third baby? The math doesn’t match here though?” (Haine)

“That be the production capability of Ishtar Blaze, be what Ba-chan said-dasu!” (Sasae)

Does that also fall in the category of production?!

Well, there’s also the possibility that it is simply Sasae-chan’s misunderstanding. That chance is a lot higher than any others, so let’s just leave it aside for now.

“Hyue, what about your place?But well, we all already know who the previous wind hero was huh. The Wind Founder, Toreido Shiva-dono.” (Haine)

That’s right. The Wind Church not that long ago had Shiva be the Wind

Founder as well as the wind hero.

But because of the fight with the Wind Demon Lord Raphael, Shiva received damage in his whole body that was impossible to recover from and had to retire; and so, his little sister Hyue became the new hero.

Shiva who is now concentrating fully on being a Founder is not in a state where he can fight anymore, and most of all, he wouldn't take the side opposing the Hero Alliance.

Looking at it in this way, there should be no worries about the wind hero at all, but...

"...No, it might come...that person." (Hyue)

"Eh?"

Hyue seemed to be muttering something with a scary mood.

"In that case, it will be a fight to determine the superior huh. Just what I wanted." (Hyue)

Hyue began to caress her wind gun as she laughed 'kukukuku'.

What's with that? It is scary.

"A-At any rate, it might be a stupid fight, but that's exactly why we can't lose. Using this as a chance, we will wipe out the unrestful elements in the human side, and next, it will connect to the fight with the Mother Monsters!" (Yorishiro)

""""Yees!!""""

Everyone raised their fists at the speech of Yorishiro.

After half a month, the details of the match between the new and old heroes, that has been approved by all the five Churches, had been announced.

The participants in the previous hero team are: the previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates; the previous fire hero, Abi Kyouka; previous water hero, Ra Sarasa; the previous earth hero 'leg hunter' Iemon Yoneko; and the wind hero that was discharged while still active, Brastor Juo.

And so, in the case that the previous heroes win, what they want to achieve is...the dissolution of the Hero Alliance and to retract the reconciliation of the five Churches. Moreover, the resignation of all the current heroes and Founders.

Chapter 182: High Risk

“Oi oi, what the hell is this?!” (Haine)

At the appointed day of the match.

After checking out the details of the current heroes versus previous heroes that was announced, I raised my voice. It was a shout that was close to a scream.

“

[If the previous heroes win, all the current heroes and Founders will resign]

. It is just as it is written.” (Yorishiro)

The Light Founder, Yorishiro, speaks back with a carefree face.

“Well, in a sense, it was expected. The people that are utilizing the previous heroes are planning on stopping the young ones of the five Churches. It is a matter of course that they would take action towards the current heroes and the Founders that are pressing forward in their endeavour.” (Yorishiro)

“Don’t say that as if it’s nothing! Even you won’t be able to stay as a Founder anymore, you know?!” (Haine)

That’s only if Karen-san and the others lose though.

The match that is supposed to take place today between the current heroes team and previous heroes team; it is something that originated due to the Hero Alliance that Karen-san was thinking of forming.

A Hero Alliance that has the objective of having the heroes that have been against each other until now to cooperate with each other in order to defeat the monsters.

That plan surpassed what the creator of that very idea -Karen-san- expected, and was about to develop into the main reason for the Churches itself to reconcile.

However, when you want to change something that has existed for a long time, there will definitely be people who will oppose it.

The measure that those people took was ‘utilize the previous heroes’.

As they are the past heroes, their heads still have the confrontational ideologies of the past. On top of that, the current heroes are in a senior junior relationship with them which is a hard to explain factor. Meaning that, they are the worst kind of opponents.

And so, it has been decided that the match will be taking place between the current heroes (the pro-reconciliation side) and the previous heroes (the contra-reconciliation side). That’s today.

The side that wins will shut up the side that loses; that’s the kind of match it should have been. However, what was announced after the half a month of preparation was that the reward of the winner would be...to put it in other words, the penalty of the defeated was so harsh it surpassed by a lot what I expected.

“In the case the previous heroes win, the current heroes and Founders will all resign.” (Haine)

Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, and Hyue won’t be able to stay as heroes. And Yorishiro will also be expelled from her position as Founder.

The rules in this match were decided in a meeting with all the churches, and were settled with deliberation, apparently.

Of course, the ones who came out with the crazy rule of ‘everyone will resign’ were no doubt the contra-reconciliation side.

They proposed it and managed to push it through.

Doesn’t this mean that the contra-reconciliation side one upped Yorishiro?!

“Calm down, Haine.” (Shiva)

Saying so, the Wind Founder and Wind God, Toreido Shiva, pacifies me.

“Do you think this woman is so cute as to get defeated right at the get go? ‘Make them think they have won, and then have them walk the path of destruction’, that’s the most basic method of schemers.” (Shiva)

“Hm?”

“This time, our political objective is to sniff out all the contra forces that are in the church without leaving a single one. In order to do that, there’s the need to provide a delicious bait. So that even the last one hiding will want to come out from the shadows.” (Shiva)

The explanation of Shiva made Yorishiro go ‘fufufu’.

So that’s how it was?

“But the people that were raising a ruckus in the meeting were simply small fries. There’s the need to drag the people, that control those small fries and the previous heroes, out from the shadows. In order to do that, I am willing to place my neck as the price.” (Yorishiro)

“I was totally dragged into it though.” (Shiva)

Shiva clicked his tongue with an expression speaking a thousand complains, but Yorishiro simply smiled.

“That isn’t the case, right? This time’s plan benefits all the five Churches. People that try to pull the leg of the ones that are going to create ambitious feats can be found anywhere after all.” (Yorishiro)

“Our Wind Church is different from you guys’ places; it is already united. Even in the reconciliation, there was not a single one who was against it!” (Shiva)

It is completely beside the point, but Shiva still snaps at the weirdest of places.

“Now now, don’t be like that, Wind Founder.”

And another person speaks; the Earth Founder Oba-san.

“Ya see, in mah place, everyone prostrated and implored me to become the Founder. In that way, ya could say that they all be a monolith. As a countryside, we really be enclosed, ya see. Even if we be told to suddenly get along with outside people...I would want there to be one more push in order to convince them, ya know.” (Oba-san)

“And you are saying this time’s match will be the push that’s needed?” (Shiva)

“For that sake, I dragged out Yoneko by force after all.” (Oba-san)

The reason why the earth hero, that wasn't supposed to participate, is participating now is because of this person huh.

The Water Founder joins.

"It is embarrassing to say, but our place is in the same state as the Light; a complete mess. Especially the household that Sarasa-san married into. It is an influential force in the financial world and are in a standing that makes it possible for them to aim for the standing of Water Founder. This one can't help but smell a conspiracy here." (Azul)

"Let there be hot-bloodedness."

The Fire Founder is apologizing for the arbitrary actions of his disciple. Must be talking about the previous fire hero, Kyouka.

In the end, a second Founders Conference is taking place today. Well, their own heads are at stake here, so it is a given.

"...."

I already felt listless, so I turned on my heels.

"Ara, where are you going, Haine-san?" (Yorishiro)

"I will check out on how Karen-san and the others are doing before the match." (Haine)

While I was in the middle of heading to the waiting room of Karen-san and the others, I met a familiar face.

The Light Church's Aurora Knight corps General, Zeberfon Dobbe.

He shows clear hostility every time we meet.

"You poisonous insect nesting in our church. It looks like today will be your death inauguration."

"....."

I remember the words of Yorishiro just a few moments ago.

'The people making a ruckus are all small fries' huh.

“Today, the Light Church will return to its pure and glorious state. The Founder and hero that disturbs order like crazy will be gone, and the poisonous insect that is you will be eliminated. And then, the Light Church will regain its original form!”

“...Did you finish the reformation plan that Yorishiro asked you to make?”
(Haine)

“Wa?!S-Something like that doesn’t matter! The very person that ordered it will soon be kicked out from her position as Founder after all!”

He still hasn’t done it yet?

How much time do you think has passed since then. He truly is incompetent.

The contra side. Without even trying to, I was able to actually feel its existence, and this time, I will be heading to the place where the people who will be fighting against them are.

Chapter 183: Waiting room -Current Heroes

How are the current heroes doing now that there's only one hour till the match begins?

With the intentions of also encouraging them, I decided on checking out how they were doing in the waiting room where they were in standby at.

It was in a funeral state.

"Hah.....what's with that? If we lose, the heroes are fired?" (Mirack)

"Is this a variety show or something?! Don't go deciding so easily on the course of a hero~~!" (Celestis)

"This be the moment that one more anecdote will be added to my legend-dasu!! And yet, I didn't hear at all that Yoneko-neechan would be taking part too-dasu yo!!" (Sasae)

If these heroes lose, they are fired.

It looks like that reality had hit them harder than expected.

Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae-chan were in an orz position on the floor and were not moving from there at all.

"W-What's with you girls?! It hasn't been decided yet that you will be fired, right? It is fine if you just win!" (Haine)

"You say it as if it's easy, but it isn't!" (Mirack)

Mirack raged.

"This is no boasting, but I haven't won a single time against Sis Kyouka before! And that shame of having my panties torn off every time I lost—!! If she were to do that in the eyes of the public...!" (Mirack)

The heart of the fire hero was completely broken.

A sister disciple relationship is truly troublesome huh.

"At any rate, we have no choice but to fight." (Karen)

Karen-san alone stout-heartedly cheered up everyone.

“Just like Yorishiro-sama said, this fight is an unavoidable fight that we must win in order to achieve our biggest objective. For the sake of eradicating monsters and leading the world into peace. Also, in order for our union to not be pointless, we can’t run away. We have no choice but to win!!” (Karen)

“Ooh~~.....” “Oooh~~.....” “Ooooh~....dasu”

There’s no strength in the response!

I am getting even more preoccupied?!

“I am sorry Karen-san. I would like to be of help here somehow but...” (Haine)

And in reality, there’s nothing I can do in this fight.

As the incarnation of the Dark God, I have done my best to make the world a better place, but when it comes to official problems like this, I end up being powerless.

But Karen-san is always positive.

“It is alright. This is fight that we heroes have to take ourselves. That’s why we have to overcome it ourselves. Ates-san and the other previous heroes are basically the old conventions taking form to attack us. If we don’t break through them, we won’t be able to create a new system and era!” (Karen)

Karen-san was determined. That is the very form of the person that pulls the Hero Alliance.

“Haine-chi, if you want us to win no matter what, you can promise ‘I will kiss you if you win’ and Karen-chi’s overall parameters will go up by three times more, you know?” (Celestis)

Celestis who was prostrated on the floor in despair said this.

“Celestis-chan, stop it! Haine-san, I am looking forward to it!” (Karen)

Which is it, Karen-san?

But if this will only boost the motivation of Karen-san, the other four will still have their despairing state...

“Mirack-chi, Mirack-chi, I have discovered something incredible.” (Celestis)

“...What?” (Mirack)

“When lying down on the floor like this, we can peek at Karen-chi’s panties as much as we want.” (Celestis)

“What? Seriously?” (Mirack)

Mirack, who was lying down depressed, was told this by Celestis who was lying face up on the floor and it made Mirack’s mood slightly better.

“Stop it.” (Karen)

Karen-san is wearing a skirt today.

“Also, we are planning on moving a lot today, so I wore a shorts underneath my skirt. Don’t go lying, Celestis-chan!” (Karen)

“You don’t understand, Karen-chi. Whether it is shorts or pantyless, it doesn’t matter. There’s romance in looking at the hidden domain that is the inside of a skirt.” (Celestis)

At any rate, it was already a mess.

If there’s another person we can rely on, it would have to be...the wind hero, Hyue. But where is she?

I haven’t felt her presence for a while now though.

I tried looking around, and I found her standing still at a corner of the room.

It looks like she is cleaning her gun, En no Ozuno, and laughing ‘kukuku’. How scary.

“What’s the matter with Hyue? Why does she have such a horrifying atmosphere?” (Haine)

“I don’t know... She has been like this all this time since the names of our opponents were announced.” (Karen)

Names of the opponents?

Now that I think about it, there was an unfamiliar name in the previous wind hero line that I thought would be vacant.

“...To think I would have the chance to kick the ass of that person in this kind

of place.” (Hyue)

“Hiiih?!”

What’s wrong, Hyue-san?! You are scary!

“Everyone!!” (Hyue)

Hyue-san stands up proudly!

“This is a battle that will decide the rise or fall of the Hero Alliance! In order to show our justice, let’s do our best and slaughter all the annoying past heroes!!” (Hyue)

“““““We can’t kill them, okay?!”“““““

But the unexpected roar of Hyue had everyone retort.

“Right. Staying here in low spirits won’t help at all.” (Mirack)

“This is already our era. Let’s teach that to Oba-san and the others.” (Celestis)

“Defeat them before we get defeated-dasu! That be the survival of the fittest, that be the ironclad rule to survive in this world-dasu!” (Sasae)

The three that were prostrated on the floor stand up with strength gathered in their limbs.

“Let’s do it, everyone! Let’s show the previous heroes our strength!” (Karen)

Karen-san chimed last, and all five shouted in determination.

“““““OOOOOOOOHHHH!!”“““““ “-DASU!”

No matter what’s said, they all have overcome many life-or-death situations together. Their teamwork is excellent.

Worrying more than this would be unnecessary.

Thinking this, I left just like that and decided on leaving it to them.

This time, I really might end up simply watching.

Those girls are strong. They should be able to overcome their own difficulties.

Let’s obediently return to where the Founders are...is what I thought but...

“.....”

I thought this, and yet, my legs were directed at a different direction.

At the direction where the waiting room of the enemy of Karen-san and the others are, the previous heroes team.

Chapter 184: Waiting Room -Previous Heroes

Why did I come here?

I think this as I stand in front of the door of the waiting room.

Of course, even if I say waiting room, it isn't the waiting room of the current heroes team where I had visited Karen-san and the others just a few moments ago.

It is the waiting room of the previous heroes that are the opponents in this match.

Will this turn into an inspection of the enemy's movements?

There's nothing I can gain from doing that, but as expected, I can't hold down the feeling that I want to do something for them.

"..."

I breath deeply once, and knock on the door.

A satisfying *knock, knock, knock* sound rang.

"Yes~, you can enter~."

I heard the voice of someone on the other side saying it is okay to enter, so I open the door.

"Sorry for the intrusion~~." (Haine)

What welcomed me the moment I entered the room was...a fully exposed breast.

"What?!!" (Haine)

There was a woman that had a breast exposed in the waiting room.

It is a person I have seen for the first time, and should be around her mid-twenties. It can be said to be the standard age of a previous hero but, why does she have a breast exposed?!

...Wait, there's a baby nibbling on that breast.

I see, she is breastfeeding!

Sorry for being occupied~. But babies don't care about the matters of adults, ya see~. When they hungry, they will make a ruckus, and I gotta bring out my breast~."

"A-And who are you?" (Haine)

"Ara, excuse my rudeness. I be late in my introductions~. I be the previous earth hero, lemon Yoneko." (Yoneko)

This person is...the earth hero that came before Sasae-chan.

Her whole body is well-rounded, and even though she is in her mid-twenties, she already has the atmosphere of a mother.

She is always showing a happy-looking smile, and she actually looks more like Mother Earth than Mantle herself.

"Uhm...sorry! I intruded while you were in the middle of something...!"
(Haine)

"It's fine, it's fine~. Yer Haine-san, right? Sobo-chan told me that ya be the savior of Ishtar Blaze, and I can't neglect my respect~. Don't mind something like this. This little one be simply eatin' his meal~." (Yoneko)

The spirit of a mother!

R-Right. This is the meal of the baby, so the very thought of thinking about it in a perverted way is rude!

"No, uhm...It was surprising that you would be participating in this occasion! I heard that you wouldn't be participating after all." (Haine)

"Well, when the notice of Sobo-chan came, it be just the time when this little one had been born, ya see. I lost all reason to refuse~." (Yoneko)

The baby must have filled himself up. He lets go of his mouth. Yoneko-san covers her breast with practiced hand, and makes the baby let out a burb.

If I remember correctly, she is the cousin of Sasae-chan. In that case, the 'Sobo-chan' she is talking about must be the same as Sasae-chan, the current Earth Founder 'Taker by the Roots'.

A woman that possesses the same blood of the strongest hero.

Based on the information of Sasae-chan, she was apparently unable to participate because she was pregnant, but it looks like she had already given birth. So that's why she ended up participating huh.

"Hmph, it is just before a battle, and yet, it is so noisy it is annoying." (Kyouka)

"The people of the Earth Church are truly lacking grace and are noisy."
(Sarasa)

From the deep part of the room, I heard the complaining voices of the previous fire hero Kyouka and the previous water hero Sarasa.

I completely didn't notice them because of the shocking Mother Earth-level breasts, but these people were also here huh.

"What weird people~. It be obvious that children are noisy. If ya complain on things like that all the time, ya can't become proper mothers, ya know~?"
(Yoneko)

"What did you say?" (Kyouka)

"Are you picking a fight?" (Sarasa)

The fire and water were seething in anger, but the earth was also releasing pressure that didn't lose to theirs.

"I simply said what's obvious, ya know~. In the first place, the fact that ya haven't gotten pregnant a single time even though ya already be older than twenty is something impossible to think of in mah countryside. Ya would need to be quite the ugly ones~." (Yoneko)

"Earth woman, whose only trait is to give birth like a rabbit, do you have enough strength as a hero to compensate for that big mouth of yours?!"
(Kyouka)

"Right. I am beginning to feel like it would be best to shut you up first before dealing with the conceited juniors!" (Sarasa)

Kyouka and Sarasa take a battle stance. On the other hand, Yoneko-san looks like she is also fully intending to confront them.

They are on really bad terms! As I thought, the previous heroes don't get along at all!

"Stop."

At that moment, a hoarse voice was hurled out. The sharpness of that tone stopped the bloodthirst of the previous heroes.

"Sobo-chan?!" (Yoneko)

The one who appeared was the Earth Founder Oba-san.

This very person is someone who trampled in a past that is even farther away than the women here. Due to the presence of their great senior, not only her granddaughter Yoneko-san, even Sarasa and Kyouka stiffened.

"Yoneko, the reason why I called ya here was not to have ya fight in a place like this. Understand yer own role." (Oba-san)

"I know~, Sobo-chan." (Yoneko)

Her words may sound obedient, but she is puckering her lips a hell lot.

"Ya two as well, ya must have yer own circumstances, but today, ya be members that will be fighting' together today-sa ne. Can't ya get together a bit?" (Oba-chan)

"Get together, you say?! Don't joke around!" (Kyouka)

Kyouka roars as she stands.

"Don't misunderstand, Earth Founder! My objective is to beat into shape my weakling of a junior. The team battle was something that was decided on their own convenience! I don't have a single shred of an intention to get along with this bunch!" (Kyouka)

"I have no intentions of getting along with the enemy. Being a team battle is just in form; we will be doing our own thing." (Sarasa)

"In the first place, I don't know if this is a waiting room or whatever, but why do I have to be placed in the same room as these people?! Just breathing the same air as these people is displeasing!" (Kyouka)

"The Light and Wind ones were not here from the very beginning, and yet, I

feel like an idiot for faithfully staying here. I will be relaxing in a different room right now.” (Sarasa)

Saying this, Kyouka and Sarasa left the room angered.

“I be relieved that they are gone now~. If I be close to such widows, it would be bad for the education of this child.” (Yoneko)

No well, at the very least, Sarasa-san seems to be married though...

“Can’t even be described as not getting along.” (Oba-san)

The Earth Founder Oba-san says with a troubled tone.

“But that be the original shape of the five Churches-sa ne. For several centuries, we been fighting each other and stealing each other’s profits. It be the same in my active days. Will this turn into a passing disorder, or will a new standard arise; the answer to that will be decided by this match.” (Oba-san)

Saying this, the Oba-san took the baby that Yoneko-san was carrying.

“Now, ya go prepare as well. I be watching over this child. That’s why I came here after all.” (Oba-san)

“Good grief. Sobo-chan is so pushy and arbitrary~. But it be really okay to seriously aim to crush Sasae-chan?” (Yoneko)

“Yeah. If she gets crushed there, it just means she only amounted to that much-sa ne. Don’t be going easy on them, Yoneko. This fight be showing the whole world the true worth of those girls after all.” (Oba-chan)

Is it like the beasts that push their children to the depths of a valley?

As always, the things that the Earth Church do are scary.

...So, in the end, I practically didn’t say anything since the moment I came to this room.

Chapter 185: Match Begins

At any rate, the bad relationship between the previous heroes was clear.

They think of themselves as being way too strong, can't acknowledge each other, and can't even stay in the same room. That's why they can't forgive the relationship of the current heroes, and are trying to crush them.

As a result, what came out was the match between the current heroes vs the previous heroes.

With the match about to begin, the stadium was already filled with more than thousands of spectators.

"To think that they would be fighting in front of such a big audience!" (Haine)

The Founders were sitting in the noble area in order to spectate, and I was also mixed in that group.

I was plainly surprised by the amount of people.

"If we don't put things to an end in the eyes of the public, it won't serve as proof after all. The contra side also agreed to this-desu wa." (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro says as she smiles. Even though the Founders will be made to resign if they lose.

Is this a display that she has confidence they certainly won't lose?

But the reason of this big prosperity of people is not only because it is a clash between the old and new heroes. It is also because of the location of the stadium.

This is the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis.

The Wind nation that had been clouded in mystery for many years has, for the first time, opened their gates to the public.

The audience seats are filled with people from the Earth, Water, Fire, and Light nations that were burning with curiosity.

"I am grateful for the Wind Founder-sama's sponsorship in this-desu wa."

(Yorishiro)

Yorishiro looks at the Wind Founder Shiva that is sitting at her side and says this.

“The Wind Church has changed their policy of secrecy, so we will be having a lot of information exchanges, and you will be profiting plenty by selling the license fees of the ethereal technology knowledge that you have gathered up until now. Will today’s fight be your first big step in publicity?” (Yorishiro)

“Hope this won’t be my last day as a Founder though.” (Shiva)

Shiva deftly evades the probing of Yorishiro.

This economic treat is also an important factor that the contra reconciliation side want to get their hands on in this old and new heroes match.

They are pulling strings here and there.

It looks like the fight is about to begin.

A young woman, that seems to be the announcer, makes an entrance at the center of the stage.

“I’m glad to see you all gathered here today!! A battle that will be carving its mark in history is about to take place right here!! The heroes of the five Grand Churches; their current and previous heroes are divided in enemies and allies, and are going to be clashing!!”

The announcer explained the details of the sequence of events that led to this match. About the pro and contra reconciliation sides’ confrontation, and the current and previous heroes representing them in this match.

“If the current heroes win, a new era will begin; if the previous heroes win, the era will be maintained the same! This is truly the turning point of history! Everyone, watch over this fight today, and become the witnesses of history!!”

The audience responds with a thunderous ‘Oooo!!’

I feel as if it has been a festive mood this whole time. Is it my imagination?

“Well then, before the fight begins, let’s have a special guest liven up the place!!”

A special guest?

“In the past, this demon intimidated the Fire capital, Muspelheim, but now, it is a mascot that’s loved by everyone!! The Fire Cow Phalaris has come here to play with us in this Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis~!!”

For some reason, a familiar cow had run onto the stage and was running here and there doing its greetings.

The audience reacted greatly to that.

Many were cries of happiness, and there were places that went ‘Kyaaa!! How cuteee!’ and some that cheered.

In response, the Fire Cow Phalaris lifted up its front legs high up and sends out one more greeting.

“What in the world is he doing?” (Haine)

The natural question that came out from me was answered by Yorishiro sitting beside me.

“I asked the Fire Church to bring him here. The Fire Cow Phalaris that the previous hero lost against it and the current hero who won against it; he is the most clearest representation of the superiority between the old and the new. By displaying it before the fight, it will stir up the enemy side even more-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

No, even if that’s the case...! Why the hell is he fawning like crazy without any hesitation...

And as expected, even the incarnation of the Wind God Quasar, Shiva, noticed it too.

“Wa...that cow, could it be...” (Shiva)

“Don’t know.” “Must be your imagination-desu wa.”

“But...those soul waves...I feel like I have felt them before...!” (Shiva)

“Don’t mind it.” “There are things that have no point in minding-desu wa.”

That’s right. I won’t mind it.

I won't mind that he is a mere shadow of the former Fire God Nova that tried to burn the surface world in the past!

The performance finished, and this time for sure, the match was about to begin.

The announcer lady once again explains the format of the match.

"The match will be a fight of five against five. It is a fight where the 10 old and new heroes will be jumbled up at the same time. Under certain conditions, it will be judged whether they are unable to continue the fight, and the one who wipes out the other side first will be the winner!!"

Immediately after the explanation, several entrance gates open around the stage.

5 entrance gates in total are arranged at the outer edge of the stage, and if we were to connect the 5 entrances with lines, you would be able to draw a perfect pentagon.

"An impartial raffle took place with the old and new heroes, and with that, it was decided from which entrance they would be coming out from!"

Hm?

But there were five entrance gates opened in the stage. The current heroes have five and the previous heroes have five, so there's a total of ten.

Aren't the numbers lacking completely?

"From each entrance gate, there will be one old hero and one new hero. In other words, two heroes will be coming from one entrance gate at the same time! Once they have entered, the match will begin!"

Words of 'I see' were let out at the seats in the area after that explanation.

"This is a plan to hype up the match by adding a random factor to it-desu wa ne." (Yorishiro)

"Hm? What do you mean by that?" (Haine)

"Earth, water, fire, wind, and light; in this fight where these five elements will

be jumbled together, the usage of the elemental affinities will become the key to victory.” (Yorishiro)

Elements have their forte and weakness.

Fire wins against wind, water wins against fire, earth wins against water, wind wins against earth, and light has slight advantage against all four elements.

That rule has affected the battles we have had until now a lot of times.

“Especially so in this fight. Avoiding the element that is disadvantageous for themselves, they have to attack the element they are advantageous against. The ones who manage to do that are the ones who will control the battle.” (Yorishiro)

“True.” (Haine)

“Those entrance gates will be the highest denominator in this fight of elemental affinities. If it’s just like the announcer explained, and the heroes that come out from the doors were decided completely randomly...” (Yorishiro)

Two people will come out from one entrance. Moreover, the two will be of opposing sides.

In that case, the ones who come out together will no doubt end up fighting with each other right from the beginning.

Whether that opponent is an advantageous elemental affinity or a disadvantageous one will be decided by luck huh.

Of course, this is a team match, so even if they come out together with an opponent whose element they are weak against, they can group up with their comrades, and if it’s the contrary, they can pin down the opponent they are in an advantage against and defeat them.

So we would be able to enjoy those kinds of strategic moves huh.

I now understand the objective of this setup.

I wonder which will be the sets that will be coming out from those entrances!!

“?!! What?!!” (Haine)

First entrance gate: current fire hero Mirack and the previous water hero

Sarasa.

Second entrance gate: current water hero Celestis and the previous earth hero Yoneko.

Third entrance gate: current wind hero Hyue and the previous fire hero Kyouka.

Fourth entrance gate: current earth hero Sasae-chan and...what's with that unkempt hair woman?!

No, what's more important is that, excluding the fifth entrance gate where Karen-san and Ates came out from, all the current heroes have gotten into a pairing that is overwhelmingly disadvantageous!!

“Well then, match begin!!”

Chapter 186: Trap

“What the hell is this?!”

Before the team match, the positions of the participants were decided at random as a side show, but... aren't they all paired up in a way that would make it a disadvantage for all the current heroes?!

Mirack's fire is going against the previous water hero Sarasa that extinguishes it; Celestis' water is going against the previous earth hero Yoneko that absorbs it; Hyue's wind is going against the previous fire hero that disturbs it; and Sasae-chan's earth is going against the wind that dries it...who is that?

At any rate, with this, aside from the light heroes that have no weaknesses to mention, every current hero has been pitted against all the elements they are weak against.

Everyone was spread on the stage facing their respective 'random' opponents.

“It is incredibly unlikely something like this could happen, but there's still the chance.” (Yorishiro)

“What are you being so easygoing about this?! It is clearly the doing of someone!” (Haine)

The highest possibility is the contra-reconciliation side that wants to bring down the current heroes and Founders.

They are doing whatever means possible to become the new political power. Without minding that what they are doing is underhanded and cowardly.

But there's no way I would forgive that!

I will find them this instant and choke them—!

“?!!”

I was going to stand up, but Yorishiro grabbed my hand.

“Take your seat.” (Yorishiro)

Her tone gave no room for a no.

“You are not the one fighting, it is those girls. Look at the expression of those girls. Even if they have been cheated on, do you think those are expressions of people that have given up right from the beginning?” (Yorishiro)

Being prompted by Yorishiro, I strain my eyes towards the battle stage.

Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, and Hyue had stiffened faces because of the disadvantageous situation, but there’s no sign of them having given up.

“Ku...”

I groan in their place; for those girls that can’t even voice out their complains in the battlefield.

“Everyone! Converge!” (Celestis)

Seeing the situation, the first one to shout was Celestis.

“Fighting in a one vs one just like this is a definite no! We will gather at once and make it a melee fight! In terms of teamwork, we are the ones in the advantage!” (Celestis)

“Yeah!” “Ou!” “Understood!” Dasu!”

The role of decision making in an emergency situation is taken by the most weakest build one out of all the five heroes, Celestis.

This time’s command was precise, but it is exactly because the command was precise that the enemy would get in the way.

“I won’t let you do it~.”

The one who blocked Celestis when she was trying to run to the center of the battle stage was the previous earth hero, lemon Yoneko.

Her plump body that would make you think that she is Mother Earth had become a wall standing in the way of Celestis.

“This is the first time we meet. I will at least introduce myself. I was the earth hero, name’s Yoneko~. In my active days, I was called ‘Leg Hunter’~.” (Yoneko)

Saying so, Yoneko-san takes out what seems to be a personal divine tool of hers, a scythe.

Compared to the earth scythe of Sasae-chan, this one is pretty small, and it was as if it was a normal sickle. But for a normal scythe, it was quite thick and the length of its blade was big. Its fearsomeness was prominent.

“Earth Scythe, Magdala~~. But too bad~, to think I will be takin’ the legs of such a loving girl~.” (Yoneko)

“Eh?”

“To think that I would have to *hunt* them!!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san lowered her body as if crawling on the ground, and attacks Celestis with a posture as if she were a cat.

“Hiwawawawa!! What’s this?!” (Celestis)

If the one being attacked wasn’t Celestis, it would have most likely ended with that one attack.

The scythe’s blade that was basically licking the ground with super-low altitude headed directly at the legs of Celestis as if trying to reap them off, but she jumped by a hair’s breadth and managed to evade it.

“You! [Water Rage]!” (Celestis)

At the same time as she dodged, she countered with a water bullet. However, Yoneko-san received it with her scythe as she turned around and easily broke the water bullet into small droplets.

“Uwaa?!”

“This is the elemental affinity~.” (Yoneko)

That’s right. This fight is paired up in a way where our side is practically all in an overwhelming disadvantage.

Even in the other fights...

“Right Fire Fist, Fernando! Left Fire Fist, Pelarius! Both fists make up the Twin Fire Fists!” (Kyouka)

Previous fire hero, Abi Kyouka.

Both of her hands were equipped with divine tool knuckles. These steel knuckles, that would originally cover the fists with their toughness and would pulverize the punched enemy, had become a divine tool that controls fire in the hands of the fire hero. Moreover, the current hero Mirack only has one fire fist equipped in her left hand, and yet, the previous hero Kyouka has them in both hands?!

“These two fire dragons that are released from these two fire fists! If you consider them the same as that pale-comparison of Mirack, you will get instantly burned to death! Better resist frantically, person from the Wind!!” (Kyouka)

The one confronting Kyouka is the wind hero Hyue.

She was shooting air bullets without rest from her wind gun, En no Ozuno, but they all hit the swirling fire tornado that has Kyouka at its center.

Wind’s affinity against fire is originally terrible. Even so, with the sniping level of Hyue, it should be possible for her to shoot through the slight openings that the fire dragons have and snipe Kyouka.

But even in the time it takes to travel through those small openings, the air bullets were rendered powerless by the fire divine power that was filling the air.

That is the elemental affinity.

Moreover...

“How noisy. The idiots of the Fire are all noisy to a tiring extent. What about you?” (Sarasa)

Mirack vs the previous water hero, Sarasa.

The affinity goes without saying.

“...Ku.”

“Well, if it’s screaming, please go ahead and raise it even if it is noisy. Scream by the hands of the water dance of my divine tool, Water Folding Fan, Dahyu.” (Sarasa)

The folding fan that is unfolded right in front of Sarasa’s face, that was her divine tool?

“This folding fan is made from the same material as the Miki-Moses of Celestis-san. Well, that girl utilizes her weapon as it is without any sort of improvement, but me, by properly fixating the end part of it, I can do something like...this!” (Sarasa)

Sarasa swings her folding fan horizontally, and from there, a line-shaped thing flew out. Mirack reacted to it by crouching.

“Uooo?!” (Mirack)

“Good good. If you weren’t able to properly avoid it, you would be split in two by now. This is what’s released from the water folding fan, Dahyu, the ‘Water Blade’. A high water pressure cutter. Such a sharp water pressure can’t be made by a fluttery cloth like the Miki-Moses.” (Sarasa)

Due to the problem of affinity, the fire wall was easily cut in two by the water blade. The only method left for Mirack was to avoid.

They are steadily being cornered.

Chapter 187: Ghost

“Everyone is managing to immediately utilize properly the divine tools that were bestowed once again to them. Should I say, as expected?” (Yorishiro)

“...”

The words that Yorishiro spoke out bothered me.

“Originally, no matter how good humans are at controlling their divine power, they themselves are unable to make divine power attacks without assistance. The reason they are able to is thanks to the divine tools.” (Yorishiro)

I have heard about that much before.

The divine tools are made from minerals that are particular to their respective church, and -to describe it in short words-are divine power amplifiers.

They resonate with the divine power that the wielder releases and amplifies it several times over before shooting it out, so humans are able to use divine power in battle.

By the way, the minerals that resonate with each element are already settled, and only the elements designated are able to resonate with them.

That’s why, for example, the Light Church has the Holy Sword Saint-George that only resonates with light divine power, and the Aurora Knight corps use light swords which are only provided to people that have the aptitude for light element.

“The hero and the combatants that work under that church are obligated to return their own divine tools to the church when they retire. It would be troublesome if they were to act violently with their divine power even when they have retired from the church after all. But the previous heroes were temporarily lend the divine tools they used in their active days for this occasion.” (Yorishiro)

And those are the divine tools that Yoneko-san, Kyouka, and Sarasa are currently using huh.

“Every generation, the divine tools of each hero are order-made, but this might be the first time that the old and new divine tools and heroes clash-desu wa ne. I can’t begin to imagine what will happen.” (Yorishiro)

It is certain that they are being steadily cornered.

Celestis, Hyue, and Mirack are being cornered into an overwhelmingly disadvantageous situation.

The earth hero, Gonbee Sasae.

Her opponent is someone that...I have never seen before.

I truly don’t have an inkling as to who it is. But I can say something for certain. She is scary and eerie.

I can tell that she is a woman, but her unkempt hair extends to around her waist and is completely hiding her face, and that’s scary. Her posture is also hunchback and that’s scary. She is wearing a one piece that looks like a pajama a person wouldn’t wear in public at all. And that’s scary.

At any rate, it is scary.

What’s with that scary woman?!

“Hiiih!! Scary-dasu!! This person be scary by simply standin’ there-dasu yo!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan is also obviously scared like crazy.

The audience was also gulping their breath at the scary mood that’s coming from that one person in the battle stage.

At that moment...

“Sasae-dono! Be careful! That person is dangerous!” (Hyue)

It was the wind hero Hyue.

Even though she herself is having a hard time, she desperately gave advice to her comrade.

“Hyue-neechan! Ta call me with honorifics as well, ya really be kind-dasu!”

(Sasae)

“That woman is Brastor Jui! A wind hero that had her title revoked!” (Hyue)

So she is the remaining mysterious one.

“She is actually the greatest researcher in the Wind Church. She is skilled at both divine power and ethereal matters, and she even gave birth to a new theory! Due to this, she reached the spot of wind hero, but she didn’t try to do her duty properly and was always shut in her research room, and in the end, her hero title was revoked. She has quite the history!” (Hyue)

“What the hell be that?! I never heard of a shut in hero-dasu!!” (Sasae)

Really, what’s with that person?

“But her skills are the real deal! To think that she would come to the outside —Uwaaa!!” (Hyue)

Hyue is also being attacked by the previous fire hero she has the worst affinity against, and is by no means in an easy situation.

Sasae-chan and the wind hero proxy, Juo, glare at each other.

“S-Scary-dasu~~! Only this side be horrific-dasu!” (Sasae)

I feel like Juo had smiled behind that unkempt hair of hers. And at the same time as that happened, a number of falling sounds on the floor were heard.

When I noticed, there were several black ball-looking things at the feet of Juo.

“What be those balls-dasu? Eggs-dasu?” (Sasae)

Are you saying Juo gave birth to them?

The black balls seem to be of metallic property, and there’s around 12 in total.

Those balls suddenly cracked open at its center. And then, what came out were propellers that looks like those of bamboo-copters and began rotating. Several tens of balls began to fly into the sky at once.

“I don’t understand anything at all for a while now-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan had fallen into confusion.

An explanation came flying from Hyue once again.

“There’s two schools in the Wind Gun techniques! The first school is twin-style gun that specializes in mid-range marksmanship and close-quarters combat. The other school is the one I do, the wind long gun techniques that specialize in sniping faraway targets. But that woman, Juo, has created a third school that doesn’t fall into any of the two techniques...that is, the gun rebellion technique!” (Hyue)

Several tens of black balls fly in the air, and from the newly cracked openings, something that seems to be muzzles come out from it?!

“...Wind Gun Rebellion...Koumei.....go.” (Juo)

For the first time, I hear the fragile voice of Juo.

But the attacks were not fragile at all, they were a raging gale.

Several tens of black balls surround Sasae-chan in the air, and shoot at her from all directions.

“Uwawawawawa! Abbu! She plannin’ on making me a beehive-dasu ka yo?!” (Sasae)

Wind Gun Rebellion, Koumei. That is the wind divine tool name of those black balls huh.

Equipped with a set of propellers for propulsion and pistols for offensive, the user Juo can send divine power through the air and make it so that she can freely control them even when far away from them. A way of utilization that can only be possible because she is a wind divine power user.

But to think that she would be able to make them do such elaborate movements when she is utilizing the air as intermediary.

Just like what Hyue warned, she is not simply a scary woman.

“Damn iiiitt!! It be taking my all just to avoid, I can’t get close-dasu yo~~!” (Sasae)

As expected. Because of the elemental affinities, even the earth divine power, that prides on its toughness, is unable to block the wind bullets that are being shot, and she is forced to evade.

Since those things are using wind bullets, she can't expect them to run out of bullets.

Isn't this a situation that will gradually become worse for Sasae-chan?!

It is not only Sasae-chan; Celestis, Mirack, and Hyue are in the same state.

Rather than the factor of being seniors and juniors, they are being pushed back by the disadvantage of elemental affinities, and they have been cornered to the edge of the stage already.

"Do you get it, Karen-san? This is the limit of you people."

And so, the last pairing.

Karen-san and Ates; the one-on-one fight between the old and new light heroes.

It is the only place where it is free from the elemental disadvantage, and yet, due to the difference in experience, Ates was in a defensive stance and tiring out Karen-san by deflecting all her attacks.

"Coward! Just defending all this time, don't you have any intentions of fighting?!" (Karen)

"If I wait like this, the others will defeat your comrades. We can just gang up on you after that. That is the most efficient way of winning." (Ates)

Today, Ates was wearing battle clothes that fits her body perfectly, and in her hand, she wielded a spear.

"The Light Spear, Kain. As I thought, you really fit in my hand... Oh, I won't let you go to where your comrades are." (Ates)

Karen-san tried to run pass Ates' side, but she was obstructed.

"I will have you stay here having a staring contest with me for a while longer. Until your comrades are wiped out, that is." (Ates)

Karen-san was grinding her teeth.

The silk wadding that was coiled around her neck was slowly tightening.

Chapter 188: Dial

Karen-san makes the holy sword shine.

“Kuwaa!!” (Karen)

She was desperately trying to somehow break through the defense of Ates and run to help her comrades. But no matter how much light she releases from her holy sword, it doesn't shake the perfect defense of Ates.

“How unsightly, Karen-san. Making your holy sword sparkle so much is boundlessly vulgar. Do you want to save that much the heroes of the other churches that are your enemies?” (Ates)

“They are not enemies! They are comrades that have overcome dangers together!!” (Karen)

She once again makes the holy sword Saint-George shine intensely. However, that sword slash was easily deflected by the tip of Ates' spear.

She makes the holy sword shine again.

“How stubborn!!” (Ates)

On the other hand, the other four were more and more cornered at a critical point.

“Ugah!!” “Hiiiiaaaa!!” “Kugh!!” “Dasu~~!!!”

At some point in time, Mirack, Celestis, Hyue, and Sasae-chan had been cornered at the center of the stage and had become one cluster of people.

And the previous heroes are encircling them.

It was as if the four inside and the four outside were drawing a circle.

In other words, the current heroes have been surrounded by the previous heroes and had nowhere to run.

“This is as far as you go. It was so one-sided that it was boring.” (Kyouka)

“Truly. I didn't know our juniors were such let-downs.” (Sarasa)

“If it be going to be like this, I didn't even need to participate.” (Yoneko)

“...Hihihi.” (Juo)

What are they saying. They utilized the elemental affinities to one-sidedly attack them.

“Do you understand now, Mirack?! This is how your naive thinking of cooperation will end up like! Relying on others all the time, you are now paying for not training yourself!” (Kyouka)

“Sis!!” (Mirack)

The big sister is one-sidedly blaming the little sister disciple.

“What’s required from heroes is strength. The strength to wipe out hundreds of monsters on your own. It looks like you, who were playing around as an idol, didn’t even reach that point though.” (Sarasa)

“Sarasa!!” (Celestis)

The gazes between the new and old water heroes were also dangerous.

The encirclement was also slowly closing.

“I’ll tell ya little chicks~. The meaning of the strength that heroes should possess. There be strength that ya absolutely can’t obtain by depending on others.” (Yoneko)

“Hihihihi~~.” (Juo)

Mirack and the others of the current heroes team had their back against each other and were facing the previous heroes that were approaching them from all sides.

That formation when seen from above was like the inside circle is made up of the current heroes and the outside circle was made up of the previous heroes.

“...Thanks for the sermon.” (Celestis)

Celestis said.

“But there’s nothing as saddening as listening to the sermon of idiots.”
(Celestis)

“What did you say?!” (Sarasa)

Being told such a bold thing, the closing feet of Sarasa stop.

“Totally agree, Celestis. People that don’t even know where they are standing at and still speak their opinion to others can’t be described as anything but idiots.” (Mirack)

“Mirack, you bastard!!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka also stops her feet at the sharp abusive words of her junior.

“This must be what they mean by you can’t dress up your teeth huh. I am not that good with words, so I will stay silent.” (Hyue)

“I pass too-dasu~.” (Sasae)

The four haven’t given up.

Even when they are cornered in a totally disadvantageous situation...no wait, is this situation really as bad as it seems?

“Listen well, grannies. The reason why you were able to do as you wished until now was because your elemental affinities were fitting more than perfectly. For your side, that is.” (Celestis)

“As long as we fought individually, we wouldn’t have been able to overturn that disadvantage. However, now it is different.” (Mirack)

“Because we four have gathered now after all.” (Hyue)

“Dasu!” (Sasae)

That’s right, it is exactly because the four were dispersed that they were being suppressed by the bad compatibility of their opponent.

But now that they have been driven to the center and the four are in a cluster, there’s no need to force themselves to fight against the disadvantageous opponent.

“You haven’t noticed yet? Normally, the moment we ended up in a cluster, you should notice that your turn has already finished. Being drunk in your advantage, you couldn’t even see the battle formation. You are more muscle-heads than I thought!” (Mirack)

“Enduring has ended. From here on, it is time for...the counterattack!”

(Celestis)

The circle of the current heroes made a 180 degrees turn.

At that moment, my brain created an image of a safe dial that has been turned in the memory area, and the safe opening.

What was drawn in the two sides of the previous heroes and the current heroes was...that by doing that rotation to the dial, the opponents of each one had changed.

Mirack's opponent was the proxy wind hero, Brastor Juo; Celestis' opponent was the previous fire hero, Kyouka; Sasae-chan's opponent was the previous water hero, Sarasa; Hyue's opponent was the previous earth hero, Yoneko-san.

By simply doing a half-rotation, the elemental advantages had cleanly turned!

"This is bad! Quickly—!"

"Too slow!!" (Celestis)

The current heroes attack their new opponents at once.

It was a complete turnaround.

"Damn it! Dual fire fist, [Flame Burst]!!" (Kyouka)

"Not enough, not enough! If you want to break my 'Water Blade', you will need to grow at least 10 more arms!" (Celestis)

Celestis vs the previous fire hero Kyouka.

The surge that the Miki-Moses created had swallowed the fire whirl along with Kyouka.

At the same time, in a different battle...

"How impudent! With the 'Water Blade' of my water folding fan, Dahyu, I will —!!" (Sarasa)

"Sobo-chan and Yorishiro-sama said the exact same thing-dasu... 'When doing something, do it thoroughly'." (Sasae)

Sasae-chan vs the previous water hero, Sarasa.

The swung earth scythe easily sliced apart the high water pressure blade and

approached Sarasa.

“Eeek!!”

The other sides were similar to this, and that clear turnaround had been witnessed by the other pair that was watching from afar; Karen-san and Ates.

“Those idiots!! I told them that much that they should finish the battle while they were still isolated, and yet...!!” (Ates)

“As I thought, it really was you people who did something.” (Karen)

Karen-san calmly approaches Ates.

“Who knows. Don’t know what you are talking about. I am just saying that they are an incompetent bunch of trash that can’t utilize a chance to its best.” (Ates)

“I wonder about that. Do you really think that Mirack-chan and the others coincidentally gathered in the middle? What if they feigned as if they were cornered and skillfully led them?” (Karen)

If it’s just gathering them in the middle, it wouldn’t be complicated at all. However, Mirack and the others moved in such a smooth and coordinated manner to their advantageous elemental affinity sides.

There’s no way they could have led and gathered them without having planned it.

“Impossible. In order to do that, they all have to be same in mind, moreover, there’s the need for someone to be giving the orders from outside...ah!!” (Ates)

Ates makes an expression as if she noticed something.

“Karen-san! Could it be that the reason why you were making your holy sword Saint-George sparkle for a while now was...!!” (Ates)

“That was something we all agreed on beforehand. So that we can quickly coordinate even if we were to be divided.” (Karen)

In other words, with the instructions send out the light from the holy sword of Karen-san, they made an act of being cornered, and were able to deftly gather.

“This is teamwork. You will be falling by the very thing that you people looked

down upon so much!” (Karen)

Chapter 189: No breaks

A shrill voice filled with agitation reverberated.

“Now that it has come to this, it is time for melee! Get so close and personal that elemental affinities won’t matter!!” (Kyouka)

Hearing what Kyouka said, I was clear of something.

“We have won.” (Haine)

“Yeah.” (Yorishiro)

It looks like Yorishiro at my side had the same belief.

Bring it to a melee and push without caring about the elemental affinities.

Hearing this, the other previous heroes also gathered and took a close formation.

Our current heroes team didn’t stop them and they themselves take a close formation as well.

“Fools! With this, your chance of winning have disappeared!” (Kyouka)

“Why do you think that, Sis?” (Mirack)

Mirack calmly asks the reason behind the boastful tone of Kyouka.

“There’s no need to even think about it! As expected, in here, we who hold the seniority are stronger. We should have clashed straight on from the very beginning without thinking about boring stuff like elemental affinities!” (Kyouka)

“...So she says. What should we do, everyone?” (Celestis)

Celestis glances at Mirack, Sasae-chan, and Celestis; and they all nod.

““““We accept the challenge!”””” “-Dasu!!”

The current heroes and the previous heroes; this time, they really are going to be clashing as a team.

“I, the inexperienced Gonbee Sasae, will be the first one stepping ta the front-dasu!! Rest in peace!!” (Sasae)

The first one to spearhead was Sasae-chan.

Brandishing a giant scythe that’s bigger than her body, she charges towards the enemy lines.

“Too naive~, Sasae-chan.” (Yoneko)

The one who obstructed her way from the very front was an earth hero just like her, Yoneko-san.

With a scythe that is smaller than that of the Earth Scythe, she properly stops Sasae-chan.

“With such shabby bloodlust like that, even when ya are an adult, ya won’t be overcoming me, ya know~? It will disappoint Sobo-san.” (Yoneko)

“Right now I be fine with that-dasu! A different person will be overcoming Yoneko-nee-chan-dasu!!” (Sasae)

The next instant, a transparent something clashed onto Yoneko-san and sends her flying.

“Ouch!! What was that?!” (Yoneko)

It was the air bullet that the wind hero, Hyue, had shot at long-range.

Since this is a match, she must have restraint the power. Because if she hadn’t, Yoneko-san would have gone right to the afterworld with that one shot.

“I be leaving mah back to Hyue-nee-chan-dasu!! CHARGE!!” (Sasae)

The extreme frontliner Sasae-chan, and the backliner assist of Hyue.

A really ideal role allotment.

“...With the support of a wind element, things get difficult~. Someone, please help out?” (Yoneko)

There was someone in the previous heroes team that answered this.

“Hyue.....I will crush you.....” (Juo)

The proxy wind hero, the apparition-like woman called Brastor Juo. She hunts

with her wind gun rebellion, Koumei.

Compared to the wind long gun of Hyue, the wind gun rebellion of Juo has several tens.

Thinking about it normally, she wouldn't have a chance of winning, but...

"[Flame Burst]!!" (Mirack)

The fire dragon that Mirack gave rise to had easily driven away the balls of the wind gun rebellion.

"Wide area of effect attacks are a trait of the fire element! Added to that, there's the affinities between fire and wind! You chose the wrong opponents!" (Mirack)

"That goes for you too, Mirack!" (Kyouka)

The previous fire hero Kyouka also gave rise to a 'Flame Burst'. Moreover, due to it being released from the two fire knuckles in both of her hands, the heat and power were practically double.

"How disappointing, Mirack! You can only control one fire fist, so you are easily pushed back by me! What's with that shabby 'Flame Burst'? That fire dragon has so many openings and it is more of a worm!" (Kyouka)

It is true that the fire dragon of Mirack had openings here and there, and compared to that, the one Kyouka released came from both of her arms, so the two of them could cover the openings of each other.

Kyouka's fire dragon certainly looked more impregnable than that of Mirack's fire dragon, but...

"Sorry for the rudeness, Sis Kyouka, but the reason why my 'Flame Burst' has openings is because they are necessary. In order to let the attacks of my comrades pass." (Mirack)

"What?!" (Kyouka)

Several water bullets pass through the openings of the fire dragon 'Flame Burst'.

"Wa?!"

And they erase the 'Flame Burst' of Kyouka in the blink of an eye.

The one who released those was of course the water hero Celestis.

"Nice! Don't you think we are gradually becoming a good combination?!"
(Celestis)

"Don't say such provoking things!" (Mirack)

Mirack unrestrainedly released vicious fire attacks and secured a safe zone; Sasae-chan jumped into the enemy lines and dealt fatal damage; Hyue is assisting them from the backlines and covering their blind spots; and Celestis is in the middle lines freely changing to maintain coordination.

But those are not the only components that form their teamwork.

Even when outside their formation, Karen-san was holding down her opponent Ates while using light signals to provide instructions.

That's why the other four know about the movements of the others and can fight only looking at the front.

The control tower, Karen-san; the space securer, Mirack; the frontliner, Sasae-chan; the backline supporter, Hyue; the one serving as the middle and holding them together, Celestis.

I would even dare say that their teamwork is already reaching the point of perfection.

And compared to that...

"Sarasa! Sarasa! What are you doing?! You are supposed to be dealing with the water one, right?! Don't dilly-dally and crush her already!" (Kyouka)

"Why are you ordering me around? The reason why you are in trouble is because you are weak, right? Wait, hyaaaa!! What are you doing?! Are you thinking of shooting the back of your allies?!" (Sarasa)

".....You are...at fault for spacing out in place.....More importantly, quickly extinguish that fire. With that in the way, I can't control the wind gun rebellion properly." (Juo)

"Who cares~. The shooting of the Wind-san on the other side is so persistent

that I can't move the way I want~." (Yoneko)

...The previous heroes were in an atrocious state.

They only move with their own self in mind, so it creates friction. And the current heroes are taking advantage of that like crazy.

They are not trying to cover for each other's weaknesses, shave off the strong points of each other like crazy, and are unable to show even half of their actual strength.

"Ei, move back, useless bunch! Now that it has come to this, I will wipe them out by myself!" (Kyouka)

"You are the one who should be moving back, you useless trash of a truant! I can easily take care of those teenagers myself!" (Sarasa)

"...Shut up...useless people." (Juo)

"Every single one of 'em be useless~." (Yoneko)

The front of the previous heroes had completely fallen.

They had turned into plain piled up trash.

Mirack and Celestis, Sasae-chan and Hyue; they respectively held hands and were pointing their hands like guns.

Combined elements...

""[Steam Explosion]!!"" (Mirack+Celestis)

""Sand Worm!!"" (Sasae+Hyue) "-Dasu!!"

Double attack of combined elements.

An explosion that occurs by evaporating a large amount of water in an instant and a sand storm had blown away the previous heroes that were unsightly bickering with each other.

""""Gyaaaaaaaa~!!!!!!""""

Chapter 190: Explosion

“When they began to crumble, it turned around instantly-desu wa ne.”
(Yorishiro)

“Yeah.” (Haine)

At the battle stage, I see four previous heroes lying down uncouthly.

The victor is practically decided already.

Four of the previous heroes are out of commission already. The one remaining is Ates who is in a one on one versus Karen-san.

“But to think it would be decided so easily. It looks like the difference in experience has shown.” (Haine)

“Experience?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro makes a wondering face.

“Isn’t it the contrary? If we talk about the accumulated experience, Ates-san and the others should have an overwhelming amount because of their seniority, right?” (Yorishiro)

“When talking about experience, the quality is more important than the quantity, Yorishiro.” (Haine)

Karen-san and the others have fought several times against opponents that would make them say ‘this is impossible’.

The Fire Cow Phalaris; the Great Sea Dragon, Hydra Serpent; Grandma Wood; Beelzebub; and the Demon Lord, Raphael. They are all dreadnought level and normal humans wouldn’t even be able to oppose them.

Karen-san and the others have defeated those kind of opponents while all tattered.

The mercilessness of the dangers they have tasted are different.

It is exactly because those girls have overcome those dangers that they won’t crumble over just any danger that rolls on them. They have obtained that

tenacity.

“I see. Even if their weaknesses were completely attacked right at the beginning of the match, but the girls did a good job in enduring.” (Yorishiro)

“They were at a cliff standing on their tiptoes though.” (Haine)

Compared to that, the previous heroes have worked as heroes for a long time, but the only things they have fought are the mass-produced monsters of the Mother Monsters.

Maybe they didn't experience any true danger as they finished their duty as heroes?

“That's why those girls were weak once they were cornered. Without knowing about a way to endure in extreme situations, they crumbled instantly. It truly is a show of their difference in experience.” (Haine)

“One first-rate experience surpasses a hundred common experiences. It is the same as male experience-desu wa ne. I also don't need experience with any man aside from Haine-san-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

I am not talking about that.

At any rate, the match is settled with this.

This is the victory of the current heroes team.

“Now, what's the matter, Ates-san?” (Karen)

I ask this of the previous hero, Ates, that is standing alone in the battle stage.

“The only remaining previous hero is you. Just like how you said just a few moments ago, want to be ganged up?” (Karen)

Mirack and the others were already running towards them and they had surrounded Ates with all five of them.

Seeing this, Ates...

“...Fuh...”

Went out of battle stance and lowered her spear.

“Don’t joke around. I don’t want to do something as tiring as fighting a one versus five. I hate fights I can’t win.” (Ates)

“Wa?!”

All five current heroes made an expression as if they had been hit by that statement.

“If it is the victory, I will give it to you girls. In this occasion, that is.” (Ates)

Leaving these words behind, Ates enters the entrance gate she came out from before and left the battle stage.

“W-What be the meaning of this-dasu...” (Sasae)

“I don’t know. I don’t know, but the previous light hero has fled from battle. The remaining previous heroes are all down. In other words, this is...” (Mirack)

“Our win!!” (Hyue)

At the same time, ear-shattering cheers were made by the audience.

This was exactly what announced the result of the battle.

For a moment I was wondering what would happen, but as expected of those girls, they were able to obtain victory with their own power.

“Now referee, the match is over! Announce our victory already!” (Celestis)

Referee?

Now that she mentions it, there was one more person aside from the 9 heroes there; a tenth person was there.

Isn’t that the announcer girl that appeared at the very beginning?

Or more like, there was a referee in this kind of match? What was she even refereeing?

“Just as you explained in the beginning, you are the one that judges when they can’t fight anymore, right? Announce the defeat of those old women collapsed there already!” (Celestis)

I see.

Even from the audience seats, I can tell that Kyouka, Sarasa, Yoneko-san, and

Juo that are lying down on the battle stage are completely unconscious and unable to fight anymore.

However, no matter how much time passes, the judgement of knocked out didn't come.

In time, a change occurred.

The woman that seems to be the referee took out something from her pocket.

“?!”

From the audience seats where I am, it is hard to tell, but...is it an ethereal device?

It was small enough that it can be hidden inside a pocket.

She held that device with her right hand, and with her left hand, she scratched the pin at its tip.

“Watch out!!”

The first one to break into a run was Karen-san.

“Eeh?!” “Waa?!” Dasu?!” “Wa?!!”

The other four were late on their reaction due to the suddenness of it.

The finger of the referee lady was trembling and didn't seem like she was able to take off the pin. But even with that, she still managed to take it off right before Karen-san reached her.

Karen-san lunged her, and because of that, the lady let go of the explosive and was send flying together with Karen.

Karen-san embraces the lady with her whole body as if covering her, and then...an explosion occurred.

Chapter 191: Vile Continuation

A thunderous sound high enough to break your eardrums and a violent gale that felt as if it had crashed onto all the audience had ran through the whole dome with the center of it as the origin point.

“Karen-san! Everyone!” (Haine)

I soon jumped out from my seat.

“Yorishiro, please calm down the chaos in the audience seats!” (Haine)

“Understood!” (Yorishiro)

By the time I slipped through the tumult of people and jumped onto the stage, the explosion had already settled and the smoke had cleared up.

It seems like it wasn't an explosive with that high of a power. Even so, I don't think the people that were at close to it can come out unscathed.

“Is everyone okay?!” (Haine)

At the battle stage, the heroes were also in confusion just like me.

“*Cough cough!* Don't mind me! What about Karen?!” (Mirack)

“That girl was the one closest to the explosion!” (Celestis)

“Or more like, why an explosion occurred-dasu?! Terrorists-da suka?!” (Sasae)

From within the group, the one who had run first to the place where the explosion occurred was Hyue. She was holding the referee woman.

“Leave this one to me! Quickly take Karen-dono!!” (Hyue)

Karen-san was powerlessly lying on the ground after the explosion.

When I carry her up, I saw there were cruel burns on her body!

“!!”

The skin of Karen-san that was as beautiful as white porcelain has...

I gulped my breath at this sight.

“...Damn it!! Celestis! Celestis, please come!!” (Haine)

If it's the water divine power of her, she could heal the burned areas of Karen-san, and at the same time, heal the wounds she had.

“H...Haine-san?!” (Karen)

Karen-san is conscious?!

“I-Is the woman okay? I-I am so useless... I tried to put up a ‘Holy Light Wall’, but...lately, I have been leaving the defense to Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan, so I haven't used it for a while... I couldn't bring it as fast as I wanted it to...”
(Karen)

“It is okay, don't talk anymore, Karen-san!” (Haine)

“I will heal you right now! [Water Heal]!” (Celestis)

With the water divine power that the Miki-Moses released, not only did the skin that had heat still in it return to its normal temperature, the burns were slowly disappearing.

On the other hand...

“Spit it out! Why did you do something like this?! Was it the order of someone?! If you don't answer, I will break an arm!” (Mirack)

“I am sorry, I am sorry, I am sorry!!”

They were mercilessly interrogating the umpire woman that Hyue was holding.

Why did she use explosives? Moreover, the moment the pin on that thing was taken off, it exploded practically right after. With that, the person doing the explosion wouldn't be saved.

Was she planning on blowing herself up?

But mysteriously, even when the both of them were in the same place, Karen-san got heavily burned, and yet, she didn't receive a single injury.

...No, there's nothing strange about it. The reason is clear.

Karen-san used her very body to protect her. Karen-san was properly performing her duty as a hero.

“But...what is happening?!” (Haine)

The match ended in the victory of the current heroes, and yet, the feeling of victory has been blown away instantly.

While I was thinking this...

“...An announcement by the administration.”

?!

What?

An ethereal broadcast that reverberates in the whole dome?!

“Due to an unexpected occurrence, the match will be temporarily suspended. The participants in the stage, please suspend the fight immediately and follow the instructions of the personnel.”

“Temporarily suspended?!” (Mirack)

The one who bit at those words immediately was Mirack.

“What stupid things are they saying?! The match is already over! The only ones who can move in the stage are us, you know?!” (Mirack)

What Mirack was saying was totally correct.

The previous heroes that were downed were fortunately outside the range of the explosion, so they didn't have a single injury.

“...I see, so that's how it is!” (Haine)

I now understand the reason behind this explosion.

“They want to make things indefinite.” (Haine)

“What indefinite?!” (Mirack)

“This match! The ones who made that umpire hold a bomb were the people that don't want the current heroes team to win. They would be troubled if you did. The moment you are about to win, they will forcefully suspend the match. The bomb was for that!” (Haine)

Hearing my deduction, Hyue twisted the arm of the umpire woman more and more.

“So? Is that how it is?!” (Hyue)

The umpire woman had tears wetting her whole face as she nodded her head up and down.

The selfish broadcast continued without caring about our resentment.

No, wait...

The voice of that broadcast is...!!

“After confirming the reason of this and the safety, the match will resume. Until then, the participants will be on rest time. Please wait for the announcement of the match restart while resting the fatigue and injuries.”

No doubt about it. That voice is familiar.

That voice is the General of the knight corps, Zeberphon Dobbe.

The person that I had passed by not that long ago in this venue.

Was he the one operating in the shadows?!

Chapter 192: Stealth Light

We are currently in the nursing room inside the dome.

The burns that Karen-san received from the explosion were healed, but even if that's the case, we had her rest.

The one who healed her, Celestis, speaks:

"What my ability can heal are, at most, the surface wounds that the body received. But when it comes to an explosion, the impact of the blast should have dealt damage to the organs as well to a certain extent. We have no choice but to let those wounds be treated by an actual doctor..." (Celestis)

Mirack places a hand on the face of Celestis who was speaking as if blaming herself for her powerlessness in this situation.

"Mirack-chi..." (Celestis)

"Thanks. You did well." (Mirack)

"Right..." (Celestis)

The two have passed through many a trial together with Karen-san. Their worries must be high.

On the other hand, there were also people who were not only worried, but also burning in anger.

"Now, spit it out! If there's something you don't remember, I will literally stir up your brain till you remember!" (Hyue)

"It be the fingernails-dasu ka? Want me ta tear off the fingernails-dasu ka?!" (Sasae)

Hyue and Sasae-chan continued interrogating the umpire woman.

She is the hated person that injured Karen-san, but there's a variety of reasons why we brought her together with us.

But it might be better to calm down those two first.

"Leave it at that. We have already finished hearing most of what we wanted

to hear.” (Haine)

The girl’s name is Platina Mina.

She is affiliated with the Light Church and normally does grunt work like cleaning the Grand Church and making tea.

But she actually had a different thing she wanted to do when she joined the Light Church. She wanted to become a knight of the Light Church and shine by defeating monsters.

She joined with that kind of dream in mind, and yet, she failed the test and her dream was easily broken.

As for me, it brings back memories of that test where they estimated the element of the people that wished to join the church. If the elemental board judges that your affinity with the light element is the highest, you pass and join the Aurora Knight corps.

Everything aside from that is judged as a fail. You are moved to do things like being a cooking assistant and cleaning. She is one of those people.

Being tired of the maid work she didn’t even want to do, she heard the devil’s whisper.

“They told me that if I obeyed their order! They would change my position in the Aurora Knight corps! They said that the one who set up that stupid entrance exam was the current Founder, so once she renounces from her post, they would think of a more suitable entrance test once she is gone!”

She repeats what we have already heard as she cries.

For the people that were controlling the things from the shadows, she was an insurance. They wish for the victory of the previous heroes team. If an undesirable result is about to be reached, they wanted to physically blow it away.

“The utilization of ethereal weapons is prohibited by the joint signature of the five Churches. That’s why an ethereal bomb would normally be an impossible thing.” (Hyue)

Hyue explains.

“But if you were to tinker with the ethereal power, it is possible to turn it into an explosive. Of course, in order to do that, there’s the need for a certain extent of knowledge and materials, moreover, the required level of technique necessary is incredibly high. It is completely impossible for a normal pro-level engineer to manage the timing of the explosion and adjust the power of the explosion.” (Hyue)

‘Just that...’, is what Hyue said as she paused her words for a moment.

“There’s only one person I know that can do that.” (Hyue)

“That doesn’t matter.” (Haine)

Is what I say clearly.

“The problem is not the ones who did it, but the ones who ordered it. Who made her hold the bomb, and who ordered for it to be activated the moment the current heroes team were about to win.” (Haine)

“ ...”

Everyone closed their eyes and made expressions as if they feared something.

“Listen well, the bomb that you were made to hold was made in a way that it would explode the moment the pin was taken off the explosive. Normally, it would have a time lag of at least 10 seconds for safety sake, and yet, it didn’t even have that. What do you think about that?” (Haine)

Mina didn’t answer. That’s why I spoke to corroborate my answer.

“You were about to be erased in order to keep things under cover. For them, it would be incredibly inconvenient that you were to speak of who it was that ordered you do this. That’s why they planned on killing you by dragging you in that explosion, or leave you in a state where you can’t speak.” (Haine)

“The moment I was given that bomb, I was told that it would take 20 seconds to explode. They said that it would be safe if I were to throw it with all my strength the moment I took off the pin!!” (Mina)

After muttering this, Mina once again had tears rolling down her face.

So she was completely a disposable pawn huh.

Stabbing into the opening this woman had for her ideals and her displeasure, she was made into a puppet.

But I can't pity her. There's something I have to do before that.

"Now then, answer. Who was the person that gave you that bomb...who was the one who ordered you to activate it the moment the previous heroes were about to lose?!" (Haine)

"The previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates-sama!" (Mina)

She answered without hesitation.

She most likely only has those feelings of being 'betrayed' and 'utilized' left.

"Dasudasudasudasudasu!!" (Sasae)

Sasae-chan couldn't hide her agitation the moment she heard that name, but Hyue was calm. It must have been a name she was expecting.

"But are you serious? I have heard that that woman is a schemer, but to think she would show herself from the shadows so easily." (Hyue)

"If you do it well, I will let you enter the Aurora Knight corps'. In order to have her believe that promise, there's the need of persuasive strength. Her title as a previous hero must have served as backing." (Haine)

In that case, the one who set it up so that the current heroes would be pitted against the previous heroes they have the worst affinity against must have been that woman.

But that wasn't something she did alone.

The voice that I heard from the broadcast...!!

"So you were here huh."

Opening the door, one man enters the room.

The General of the Aurora Knight corps, Zeberphon Dobbe.

"You bastard!" (Haine)

"It would trouble us if you were to arbitrarily take away the suspect."

Dobbe's gaze was directed at the scared Mina.

“We have to hear about the details behind that explosion incident from the one responsible for it. As member of the management staff of this match.”
(Dobbe)

“I never heard about you being part of the staff.” (Haine)

I glare directly at Dobbe.

“Why do I need to report to you? Just means that there’s fitting roles for the capable people. I do my all to fulfill that role. And so, I will be having that woman come with me.” (Dobbe)

“Are you planning on silencing her?” (Haine)

Mina reacted at those words and clung onto me.

She is telling me with her eyes that she doesn’t want to go.

“...I will be taking this person directly to where the Founder is. This match is being carried out with the consent of the five Churches. There’s the need to explain it to the other Founders, and if we had the very person speak in front of them, it would save trouble, right?” (Haine)

“It is my job as staff.” (Dobbe)

“And I am saying I will be saving you the trouble.” (Haine)

The two of us don’t step back at all.

I am practically certain that this man and the previous light hero Ates are connected in all of this mess.

If that weren’t the case, Ates alone would have never been able to mess with the pairings of the entrance gates.

They both are antagonistic towards the Light Founder Yorishiro and want to overthrow the current political powers.

“Isn’t it fine?”

One more voice joins in the nursing room.

“Ates!!” (Haine)

The wicked hero that is the main problem here!

“I came here to visit Karen-san out of worry. She is, in outline, my junior after all.” (Ates)

“What are you saying with such a straight face!” (Haine)

You are the one who ordered Mina to hold the bomb!

If that were to come out to light, she would be done for without the result of the match mattering.

In reality, she wanted to shut her mouth with the explosion, but the instantaneous reaction of Karen-san had saved her, on top of that, we have secured her on our side.

So she hurriedly came to our place huh.

“Now that I think about it, the reason why you easily accepted your defeat and left the battle stage was in order to not get caught in the explosion.”
(Haine)

“Who knows. I don’t know what you’re talking about. More importantly...”
(Ates)

Ates gaze was directed at where Mina was.

She walks two...three steps forward.

“Stop. Don’t get any closer.” (Haine)

“Then, from here. Mina-san.” (Ates)

Mina had her shoulders tremble and looks up at Ates.

Her lips didn’t make any sound, but it clearly moves.

“...!!”

Seeing this, the face of Mina gets pale and her body trembled.

“I...!! Don’t know anything!” (Mina)

“Eh?”

“I wasn’t ordered by anyone! I did it on my own volition! What I did had nothing to do with anyone!! I...I...!!” (Mina)

What is she saying all of a sudden?

Mina suddenly goes into frenzy and speaks things that overturn what she said until now.

Ates looks at that satisfied and left the nursing room.

Chapter 193: Match resumes

In the end, everyone had their mouths tightly closed after that and didn't speak at all.

There's no doubt that there was a point in Ates coming all the way here.

Just what kind of magic did she cast on Mina?!

"Damn it!!" (Haine)

I quickly chase after Ates.

She left the nursing room just now, and if I run, I should be able to catch up to her.

'I will wring her up directly', is what I was thinking when I left onto corridor, but then...

I encountered a ghost.

"Gyaaaaa!!!" (Haine)

Scary! Super scary!!

I encountered a female ghost that has ruffled hair!

Was this a spirit spot?!

"...Was the girl from before...okay?"

"Hm?"

The ghost was worried about Karen-san.

No, that's not it.

If I remember correctly, she is the proxy wind hero, Brastor Juo. The first time I saw her figure was at the battle stage, but her impression was so big, there's no way I would forget about it.

"...Right now...I am preparing the ultrasound inspection device. By using both ethereal and wind divine power...it sends ultrasound waves inside the patient's body...and with the echoes of it...it is possible to investigate the insides. If we

use this...we can tell if the bones and organs are okay..... I developed it.” (Juo)

“???????”

I once again can’t understand what she is saying.

But is this person actually worried about Karen-san?

“...The one who...created that bomb was me.” (Juo)

“?!!”

I stagger at the sudden confession of hers.

“It was my mistake. That woman...asked me if I could make an explosive using ethereal. My blood as a scientist was stirred up. I reduced the power enough so that it wouldn’t kill a human though. I should have asked about what she would be using it for.” (Juo)

No no no, you should have asked!

Is this ghost woman an airhead?!

“When you speak about ‘that woman’, you are talking about Sunnysol Ates, right?!” (Haine)

“I am just going to warn you but...you won’t find any evidence. I made it so it wouldn’t leave a single piece after it exploded. The truth about me creating it and giving it to that woman...my testimony will not serve as proof enough. If she were to play the fool...that would be the end of it.” (Juo)

“That’s...” (Haine)

It is true that looking at how Ates has moved until now, there’s no way she would make a mistake like leaving evidence.

“Also...I won’t apologize either.” (Juo)

“Eh?”

The ghost proxy wind hero, Brastor Juo, said this resolutely with a little bit of guiltiness.

“I also...have something I can’t forgive in today’s match. That’s why...I have come outside after a long time. I will definitely have Shiva-sama...resign as a

Founder.” (Juo)

The proxy wind hero and the Wind Founder Toreido Shiva. No, not only that, Shiva is also the previous wind hero.

Maybe they have some sort of relationship, or might be a connection?

She probably said everything she wanted to say, the ghost made a turn and left –while scaring all the people she passed by.

But, yeah. The fight will still continue.

The hero team fight was going to be declared the victory of the current heroes, but that was all blown away by the bomb of Mina and ended up as indefinite.

The previous heroes that were knocked out in the fight must have already regained consciousness like Juo who I met just now.

Even if it was an underhanded method, it could still be said that they overcame a difficulty and connected the fight to the next.

When I returned to the nursing room, the room was shrouded in an even heavier atmosphere.

“What’s wrong, everyone?” (Haine)

It was so heavy, I had to ask.

“...That light knight General left just now, but before that, he told us something unbelievable.” (Celestis)

It is about Dobbe huh.

Him saying nothing good is an usual occurrence but, just what happened?

“When the matches resume, the format will apparently be changed. He said that the team battle had luck involved way too much that the fairness of it would be harmed or something like that.” (Celestis)

Hah?

What’s with that explanation that had zero convincing power?

In that case, don't go establishing a system like randomly choosing your opponents right from the start.

“And the new format that will be used when the match resumes be apparently 1 vs 1 matches-dasu!!” (Sasae)

“A total of five 1vs1 matches. The first one to get 3 wins is the victor, apparently. It seems like it will be matched with current and previous heroes of the same element.” (Mirack)

Meaning that it will be Mirack vs Kyouka; Celestis vs Sarasa; Sasae-chan vs Yoneko-san; Hyue vs Juo; and Karen-san vs Ates.

...

They once again came with a method that doesn't care about appearance.

At first, they tried to get a perfect victory by matching them with the perfect elemental affinities. But that was overturned by the teamwork of the current heroes team and instead ended up with them being attacked in their weak points.

Seeing this, those people that have learned from it have chosen the more certain way of winning without caring about winning in the best-looking way.

By shifting the team match to individual matches, they have sealed the strongest point of the current heroes which is their teamwork. On top of that, it is a 1vs1 against the previous and current heroes of the same element.

If we go by the individual ability without relying on the elemental affinities, the previous heroes who are the oldest ones have the advantage. That has also been proved in the team match before.

“Those guys probably wanted to make the 1vs1 matches against elements we were weak against as well, but that would be way too obvious no matter how you put it.” (Haine)

“So they plan on defeating us with raw ability huh. Even so—!!” (Mirack)

“That's way too dirty!!” (Celestis)

Celestis couldn't endure it anymore and shouted.

“In the team match just now, it was about to end with our win, and yet, having to redo it from square one is way too dirty! Let’s go complain! Along with the Founders! And then—!!” (Celestis)

However, what she was saying was...

“Let’s have the audience ally with us as well! The people that were watching should have noticed the strangeness as well! An explosion suddenly happened, and then redoing the match that was practically set is just impossible! They should be thinking that way as well! If we were to hit them with that will of us —!” (Celestis)

“No.”

A voice lacking in strength came from the bed.

It is Karen-san.

Has she regained consciousness?!

“Karen-san!!” “Karen!” “Karen-chi!” “Karen-nee-chan!” “Karen-dono!”

Everyone surrounded the bed. Karen-san narrowed her eyes in happiness when she saw this.

Thanks to the water heal of Celestis, Karen-san’s burned areas had disappeared without leaving trace behind, and in terms of appearance, she seems to be in perfect condition already. However, because of the blast of the explosion, the inside of the body received damage, and without proper inspection, we can’t be optimistic.

“Let’s go just like this. Let’s take on this individual matches.” (Karen)

“But! With you in that state, it is impossible! They definitely will judge you as a loss by default! When that happens, in essence, we would only be allowed to lose once!” (Celestis)

“I am sorry that I will be troubling everyone! But you see, in this fight, we have to let the other side do whatever dirty moves they want and still manage to win.” (Karen)

Even with the weakened voice due to her injuries, Karen-san said this with a strong will.

“Yorishiro-sama said it, didn’t she. The real objective of this fight is to smoke out all the ones from the contra-reconciliation side without leaving a single one behind. The more underhanded methods they take, the more room Yorishiro-sama and the others have to bring them out to light.” (Karen)

“That might be true but...!” (Celestis)

“Yorishiro-sama also understands that, so she has been letting the other side do whatever they want while staying silent. The Knight General Dobbe being a staff member must have been a trap set up by the Founders!” (Karen)

It is true that Yorishiro should be able to do that much.

The fight between the new and old heroes is not one that will end with just today. This is simply a part of what must be done in a fight that will take a long time.

The ones on the right are the current heroes and the Founders that support them, and the ones who have taken in the previous heroes to their side are the evil ones; by having the audience today view it in this way, it will serve as quite the tactical advantage.

The anger that the audience feels will not be used in today’s battle, it will be used in order to burn the ones pulling the strings in the shadows without leaving a single one behind.

But...!

“But there’s no need for Karen-san and the others to tag along with that!” (Haine)

“No, there is. This is all in order to create a system that will allow us humans to go against the Mother Monsters and the Demon Lords. This is an urgent matter. We are...!” (Karen)

The light hero Karen had a pained expression, but continued speaking

“Strong! I want to have everyone know this. To the audience that has come here today, and to all the people in the world as well, and also to the previous generation heroes as well; I want them to know that no matter what monster appears, we are so strong we won’t lose. That’s why, I want to let the contra-

reconciliation side do all the underhanded moves they want, and show everyone that, even with that, we can still win!!” (Karen)

Strong light was reflected in the eyes of the injured Karen-san.

Seeing this, no one was able to say anything back.

“Understood. I am always on the side of Karen.” (Mirack)

“Let’s ride on their play then.” (Celestis)

“Sobo-chan told me that dirty conspiracies be things that only weak insects do-dasu!” (Sasae)

“I still have to settle things with Juo too after all.” (Hyue)

The will of Karen-san was transmitted to the other heroes as well. That’s why these girls are strong.

And just like this, the second act of this battle began.

The current heroes vs the previous heroes; 1vs1 matches.

The first match is with the fire heroes; the current hero Katak Mirack vs the previous hero Abi Kyouka.

Chapter 194: Duo

Before the individual matches between the heroes began, I was told this.

“Please be the referee.”

“Huh?” (Haine)

At the time when we were sending off Mina, Yorishiro told me this.

“In the 1vs1 of the heroes, it will basically be a deathmatch with no rules, but even if that’s the case, there’s the need of a person that can judge the ending of the fight and decide the victor. I want to ask Haine-san of this.” (Yorishiro)

She told me something like that.

“But I am a person from the current heroes side through and through. Am I appropriate to stand as a referee that requires fairness?” (Haine)

“If we think of this as creating a balance with the contra-reconciliation side and the previous heroes side, there should be no problem. Also, I might have been underestimating Ates-san.” (Yorishiro)

Saying this, Yorishiro bit her lips.

As if she was holding in her regret.

“To think they would use such a direct method in the middle of the match. I was planning on letting her swim as much as she wanted, and then grasp a lot of evidence regarding their dishonesty, but it would be pointless if it ends up hurting the heroes in the process. In order to protect the girls, Haine-san, it is the safest if you were right by their side.” (Yorishiro)

It is true that if I had been standing at their side in the last moments of the team match, I could have stopped the bomb of Mina.

If I stand at the battle stage as a referee, I can stop most things with dark matter before it happens.

“How about just suspending the matches?” (Haine)

“I thought of that as well, but when I went to visit Karen-san, she stopped me.

‘If we stop here, it would be giving the victory to the other side’, she said.”
(Yorishiro)

Isn’t Karen-san a bit too hungry on winning this time around?

Rather than her injury, that issue is beginning to worry me more.

“It is okay. Karen-san and the others will win.” (Haine)

And Yorishiro will win as well.

“No matter what kind of dirty cards they bring out, they will crush them all and win. That’s the etiquette of the truly strong ones. This fight is a fight that will transmit this truth to the whole world.” (Haine)

And after the fight, this will corner the contra-reconciliation side that have been pulling those underhanded tactics.

That’s the reason we are allowing the underhanded tricks this time. In order to have the opponent get ahead of themselves, I understand that there’s the need to act as if we are being defeated, but...

“Depending on the result of the Wind Church’s diagnosis, it is possible that Karen-san’s participation might be banned. The person herself is adamant in participating though.” (Yorishiro)

“It is better to think about winning three with the remaining four, right? Understood. I accept the job as referee. I will hunt all troubles in the location with my dark matter.” (Haine)

“I am counting on you. In that time, I will be opening the mouth of this girl.”
(Yorishiro)

Yorishiro hugs the bomber Mina tightly.

Someone that was a mere maid of the Light Church has received a hug from the Founder, and her blue face from a while now has turned into a pale white one.

But I won’t pity her.

Receive the love of the Light Founder that even the heroes fear.

And just like this, I stood on the battle stage.

The people in the audience filling up the whole place were also blowing up with the strangeness of this situation and were surprised by it, but the speech of the current heroes that was done just a while ago saying ‘we will definitely win!’ had made them concentrate on the outcome of the battle.

There shouldn’t be a small amount of citizens that are also in the contra-reconciliation side. This is also a fight in order to bring those people to our side.

Let’s begin by calling the participants of the first match.

“Uhm...a-at the red corner, the current fire hero, Katak Mirack! At the blue corner, the previous fire hero, Abi Kyouka!” (Haine)

From the entrance gates, the two past and present heroes appear.

The first fight will be a clash between the fire heroes.

The two are women that have way too fit bodies, and are both tall and muscular. Those two stood in the middle of the stage and were glaring directly at each other.

“...This is how it should have been done from the very beginning.” (Kyouka)

As if doing their introductory remarks, the first one to speak out was Kyouka.

“My objective is to beat you into shape from square one. I don’t care about the others. The interlopers have finally disappeared. You are prepared, Mirack?” (Kyouka)

“Sis Kyouka, I have misjudged you.” (Mirack)

The short but sharp words of Mirack made Kyouka falter for a moment.

“Thinking of me as cowardly is just an arbitrary view of Sis. There’s definitely places where I am lacking, but to think that you would even join hands in the conspiracy that’s trying to bring down our master for that sake.” (Mirack)

The current Fire Founder, Enou, was the master of those two.

In this time’s match, there’s also the condition that if the current heroes were to lose, the current Founders have to resign as well.

“What you are doing is returning favor with evil. I can’t overlook this as a

pupil of the same master. More so with the unsightliness you showed at the team match before. Just where did the prided fire hero Abi Kyouka of the past go to?!” (Mirack)

“Shut up!!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka pushes out her fist.

“Mirack, if you are a hero, speak with your fists! There’s no worth of existence in a weak hero. I will be teaching you this right now!!” (Kyouka)

The two of them heat up.

It should be fine now.

“Then, begin match!” (Haine)

The two fires that were released in concert to my voice were burning at the same time.

““[[Flame Burst]]!!”” (Mirack+Kyouka)

The fire whirls that occurred at the exact moment from two different places were like spinning tops clashing with each other.

“What’s the matter Mirack?! Do you plan on defeating me with a fire dragon of that level?!” (Kyouka)

“Gugh!!” (Mirack)

But no matter who saw it, they would be able to tell that there was a difference in the strength of the two fire dragons.

The weak one was being steadily crushed by the stronger one.

“Fire Fist Barbarossa! Change my divine power into raging fire!!” (Mirack)

“Too soft! Fire Fist Fernando! Fire Fist Pelarius! Dual Fists, Dual Fire Dragons!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka has fire divine tools in both hands, and the fire that was released from them was obviously twice as much as it attacks Mirack.

Compared to that, the fire divine tool Mirack uses is only the Fire Fist Barbarossa.

In a sense, it could be considered a 2 vs 1, and it was clear who was at an advantage here.

“Damn it!!!” (Mirack)

Mirack was slowly but surely being pushed back.

With the strength of her fire dragon, the most she could do was endure to her best the same attack Kyouka was bringing out.

But that wouldn't last long.

Is there really that much difference in power? Is it not possible too oppose the previous heroes that have trained for a longer time?

“Learn with that body of yours, Mirack! This is how a hero actually looks like! Stronger than everyone, not losing to anyone! And because of it, there's no need for the help of anyone either! That's what a hero is!” (Kyouka)

Chapter 195: A flash of gratitude

The fight was extremely painful to watch.

In terms of basic divine power difference, Mirack was already at a state where she could only stay in the defensive.

At times, her own fire dragon would be destroyed and burns would be left in her body, and every time that happened, she would barely avoid fatal wounds as she withstood at the edge.

On the other hand, Kyouka didn't have a single wound and wasn't even out of breath.

Right now the attacks have temporarily loosened. She was looking down at her junior who was letting out steam from her whole body.

"How about you admit your defeat already? Your current self can't beat me. The current you has forgotten the origin of your strength." (Kyouka)

"The origin...of my strength?" (Mirack)

Even so, Mirack didn't forget her will to resist as she stands up unsteadily.

"Even to this day, I still remember the day I first met you. Just how many years has it been already. At the day the Ignis Militant corps were doing the entrance exams, I was in the venue as a test overseer. And that's when I met you who came to take the test." (Kyouka)

"..."

"Your fire element numbers didn't even reach the two hundreds. Normally, it should have already been a fail from that. But even with that, you still clung onto me." (Kyouka)

'I definitely want to become the fire hero', you said.

"I was outpushed by the zeal of a brat! In the end, I asked master, and you were somehow allowed to enter the Ignis Militant corps. But after that, it should have been a living hell for you. Days of training while being several steps behind the others. Shouted by the instructor, being looked down upon by your

colleagues, but even with that, you continued working hard.” (Kyouka)

I have heard of that before.

Just how much effort Mirack has put on to become the fire hero.

But for that sake, she...

“And just as you declared, you had become the fire hero. There were many others with more talent than you, and yet, you pushed them all aside and grabbed ahold of the spot of hero. It was a feat that came most of all from effort. But the current you is trying to rot your strongest point by your own hands –by getting familiar with others.” (Kyouka)

Kyouka once again gathers divine power to her dual fire fists.

“As your senior, I have to correct that mistake of yours. For that sake, I have gone as far as participating in this fight that goes against master!” (Kyouka)

“Sis Kyouka...” (Mirack)

“Smear in the shame of defeat once and learn about what position you are in! If it is you, you should be able to reach it. Aim for even greater heights!!” (Kyouka)

Mirack staggered as she took a battle stance. The line of her stance was firm.

“I hated you.” (Mirack)

“What?!” (Kyouka)

“You were truly my complete opposite. You had high fire element compatibility from the moment you were born and climbed up to being a fire hero without any difficulties. I thought that the reason why you were always leaving the talentless me by your side was because you wanted to look down on me and bully me to obtain a feeling of superiority.” (Mirack)

“!!!”

I could tell even in the middle of battle; after hearing the declaration of Mirack, the heartbeat of Kyouka was speeding up irregularly.

“When you were defeated by the Fire Cow and retired from your position as a hero, I was silently cheering. I was thinking ‘that woman had finally fallen from

her high horse', 'well deserved'. But that way of thinking was a mistake."
(Mirack)

"?!"

"There was a person who taught me that my menial prejudice was all a mistake." (Mirack)

Mirack's gaze was directed at me for a moment. And then, it moved to the audience seats.

"Mirack-chan!!" (Karen)

Karen-san was at the audience seats.

Did the examination of the Wind Church already finish?

"Do you best, Mirack-chan!! Don't lose!" (Karen)

"That right-dasu, Mirack-nee-chan! Push through with guts-dasu!!" (Sasae)

"I won't forgive you if you lose right at the beginning of our performance!"
(Celestis)

"Mirack-dono! It is all in the concentration!" (Hyue)

It wasn't only Karen-san, the other heroes who were on wait for their own matches were not lacking in the support for their comrade.

"Excessive effort will warp your heart and you will end up forgetting something important from it. Why was I trying to become strong, why I wanted to become a hero; I had recently forgotten about such important things..... Along with my gratitude towards you." (Mirack)

"What?!" (Kyouka)

The first time I met Mirack, it was a completely different Mirack from the current Mirack here.

Seeing every person as an enemy, even rejecting her old friend Karen-san as she held a composed face when pouring her with insults.

This hellish training time that Kyouka speaks of, that overwhelmingly harsh time, had slowly warped the heart of Mirack in exchange of growth.

I don't know if that was the correct thing to do or not, but the current Mirack is not the same from the one at that time.

A Mirack that has the power she gained from her blood-vomiting experience and has remembered the important memories of her young days.

The never ending affection towards Karen-san is what has completed the current Mirack.

The new Mirack knows that there's other important people aside from herself.

"I can now clearly tell. It is because you were there that I was able to become a hero. It is because you picked me up that I was able to enter the Ignis Militant corps. Even after that, you always left me at your side and taught me important things and provided me irreplaceable experiences. When you retired, I later learned that you were the one who nominated me as your successor." (Mirack)

"Mirack...!" (Kyouka)

"It is because you raised me with care that I was able to reach to where I am now. Forgetting something as important as that, I got so prideful thinking I had come all this way on my own, but my comrades reprimanded me. They made me remember a lot of important things.....and that gratitude, I will release it all in this fist. Sis Kyouka, I will also be answering you with my all!!" (Mirack)

I could tell that the inside of Mirack was beginning to increase in temperature with fire divine power. It was silent, yet hot.

High temperature was pulsating inside of Mirack.

"You bastard!!" (Kyouka)

On the other hand, Kyouka was furious.

The fire dragon that was released from the dual fists was the biggest until now.

Was this the display of her own mental state? It was so big and violent.

"Mirack! Take this, my 'Flame Burst' with the highest output!!" (Kyouka)

It was as if a great fire dragon was attacking Mirack like a fire tsunami.

Won't a human be turned into cinders if they were to be attacked by something like that?

However, Mirack didn't show a single sign of running away, and pushed out her right fist that was drawn back to its limits.

"Bear witness to it! My new technique, [Fire Blade]!!" (Mirack)

A thin thin fire sword was released from the fire fist Barbarossa.

The fire sword stretches towards Kyouka.

Isn't that just like the 'Holy Light Sword' of Karen-san?!

The fire sword of Mirack pierced through the fire tsunami of Kyouka and reaches her who is at the other side.

"Guaagh?!"

It reached her chest splendidly and the previous hero was blown away just like that.

But even if the caster was defeated, it doesn't mean that the fire tsunami will disappear.

The big tsunami, that had simply been punctured slightly, attacked Mirack with its original momentum and swallowed her.

"Watch out!" (Haine)

I hurriedly release dark matter against the fire wave, that was about to reach even the audience seats, and extinguish it.

That was close.

Does that mean they were so hot-headed that they didn't have the composure to think about how it would affect the audience?

At the battle stage, Mirack, who had been poured from her head down by the fire wave, had all her body thoroughly burned, but even with that, she was still standing –she was firmly standing.

"Mirack...are you okay?" (Haine)

I ask worried, and Mirack answers cheerfully.

“If I were to fall to something like this, I wouldn’t be an opponent for the Mother Monsters.” (Mirack)

Right.

The attacks of the Fire Cow and the Great Sea Dragon were a lot more overwhelming after all.

On the other hand, Kyouka who had taken a direct hit from Mirack’s new technique was lying on the ground.

She wasn’t showing any signs of standing up.

There was a clear difference between her and Mirack who had received big damage.

I announced.

“First match, in the fire hero match; the winner is the current fire hero, Katak Mirack!!” (Haine)

Chapter 196: Second Match

“...Sis...Sis Kyouka. Are you okay?” (Mirack)

The winner Mirack walks towards the fallen Kyouka.

It looks like Kyouka was temporarily out of commission, but she soon regained consciousness and borrowed the hand of Mirack to stand up.

“...I lost huh. This time for sure. It was great, Mirack.” (Kyouka)

Kyouka was sportsmanlike to the result.

Her original nature must have been her straightforwardness as well.

“But ‘Fire Blade’ huh. To think you would instead concentrate the fire divine power that has the highest spread out power. I am surprised you thought of it. Well, it was exactly because of it that you were able to break through my ‘Flame Burst’.” (Kyouka)

“The Mother Monsters that we are going to be fighting in the future are of a size that is out of the norms. An area of effect attack from a single human would make scant a difference against them. In that case, we should instead concentrate it all in one place and become bees that attack all at once.” (Mirack)

“I see. Your fighting style just now has already reached a point that is far from our common sense huh.” (Kyouka)

Saying until that point, the expression of Kyouka clouded.

“...I didn’t notice at all. I didn’t know that you hated me.” (Kyouka)

“I am truly sorry.” (Mirack)

“I was always keeping you in mind when I acted. That’s how much I respected that straightforward effort of yours..... But when I ask myself ‘was there no sense of superiority there?’ I myself can’t answer.” (Kyouka)

“I think that no matter the person, they can’t move with just a single pure emotion in mind. I was jealous of Sis Kyouka’s strength and felt an inferiority complex towards it. But at the same time, I admired it. I tried to become

stronger with you as my goal. But the me that was simply trying to move while only facing forward had ended up seeing nothing aside from what was in front of me. Even though there were a lot of things that I should have been looking back to.” (Mirack)

“Are you saying...they are the ones who have made it possible for you to see it?” (Kyouka)

The comrades in the audience seats that were happy at the victory of Mirack.

Karen-san who had finished her examination was waving both hands vigorously. Mirack answers this by raising her fist high in the sky.

“Sis Kyouka called it being domesticated, but it was exactly because of it that I ended up thinking about getting further strength. There’s a limit to how strong a person can become on their own. The Mother Monsters are opponents that make you understand this. Moreover, there are existences even stronger than that that might be born...” (Mirack)

“It is fine. No need to say anymore. I lost. There’s no words to say to the loser!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka patted the cheek of Mirack.

“Do it properly, fire hero.” (Kyouka)

This is of no importance, but when I looked at the noble area of the audience seats, the Fire Founder was wailing in manly weeping.

For him, the two of them are his cute disciples after all.

Just like this, the first match of the old and new heroes had ended with the victory of Mirack.

So we are leading by one point.

A bitter voice greeted Kyouka who had lost and was about to leave the place.

“How pathetic. Displaying such an unrefined match like that and still losing. As I thought, the heroes of other churches can’t be relied on.”

Words close to abuse.

Passing by the owner of that voice, Kyouka silently says this.

“Then show it to me, this so called refined fighting style of the water hero that you boast of.” (Kyouka)

“Of course. I will show you the difference between a true hero and a fake hero.” (Sarasa)

The second match is the water hero battle.

The previous hero that stood on the battle stage replacing Kyouka was Ra Sarasa.

Facing her was of course...

“...Good job on the opening. Thanks to you winning, I am now in a good mood to sing.” (Celestis)

“The song will obviously be a victory song, I hope. If that’s not the case, I will drag you out of the stage, you got it?” (Mirack)

Exchanging a high five with good momentum, the one who substituted Mirack and went on the stage was the water hero Celestis that had a big smile and shining eyes, dazzling everyone in the audience seats.

“Oooh!! It is Celes-tan!!” “I have been waiting!” “Celes-tan, kyuuuutttt!!” “Hoh! Hoh! Hoh! Hoh!!” “C-C-C-Celes-tan!!!”

Incredible cheers were coming from the audience seats.

The person that even when she is a hero, she is also working as an idol.

This match where there’s many spectators actually felt like the live performances she habitually holds. Just for this moment, the dome had become the sole stage of Celestis.

With practiced movements, Celestis makes a smooth turn as she waves at all directions.

Even bigger cheers burst.

In this venue that was being covered with a sense of unity, there was a single person that was scowling at this.

“...What a vulgar voice. I am surprised at how those adults can let out such

strange voices. It is way too embarrassing.” (Sarasa)

Sarasa covered her face with her opened folding fan and hides her mouth that was frowning.

“Ara, could it be that it is tough to keep up with your granny stamina? But too bad. I still haven’t considered how to give live performances to people of age, you see.” (Celestis)

“Keep barking.” (Sarasa)

Sarasa said in a strict voice.

“Since I have the chance, I will put it clearly here. I definitely won’t forgive you. You are the shame of us Water Church. Today in this place, I will be handling judgment upon you. Prepare yourself!!” (Sarasa)

That’s right.

The emotions that Sarasa was directing at Celestis had clear hostility.

Just why does she hate Celestis so much?

“...Well, I don’t understand things like the formalities and traditions of the other churches. But why is it that you can talk so unfavorably about others with just that reason alone?” (Celestis)

The Miki-Moses covers the body of Celestis.

That divine tool was being clad in water divine power.

“Of course, I am an idol, but I am also a hero. I will buy that fight you are selling me. Especially the fight you are picking, not only on me but also on my important friends. I will be returning it all ten-fold!!” (Celestis)

Second match.

Current hero Re Celestis vs previous hero Ra Sarasa.

“Match, begin!”

Chapter 197: Mixing without being mixed

“[Water Rage]!” (Celestis)

“[Water Blade]!” (Sarasa)

The water bullet shot from the Miki-Moses of Celestis, and the high pressure water blade released from the water folding fan, Dahyu, of Sarasa.

Both of them clash in the air and, no matter the times, the high-pressure blade won and would cut the water bullet in half.

Celestis had to avoid the water blades that continued on with its original speed.

And I was busy erasing them with dark matter to make sure the water blades didn't attack the audience.

“Hohohohoho~~, how is the sharpness of the ‘Water Blade’ released from the water folding fan? That childish water play of yours doesn't even serve to delay them.” (Sarasa)

“The water folding fan, Dahyu, was made from the same cloth as my robe, Miki-Moses. The biggest trait of the folding fan is that it is firmly serving as the bone for the cloth which makes the water bullet take that blade-like form.” (Celestis)

“The water bullet that has been made thin due to the paper and cloth can already be called a water blade. It will cut everything. In my active days, several hundreds of monsters have become rust to this blade.” (Sarasa)

“Rust in a water blade, can you make a less coherent sentence?!” (Celestis)

The retort of Celestis only felt like her distracting herself from her pain.

“The biggest strength of the water divine power is its wideness in practical use. At times, it can wet your thirst; at others, it can create raging streams; and at other times, it can rot something by stagnating it. Just like how water itself has innumerable faces, the water divine power can be divided with just a single change. My water folding fan is one of those faces.” (Sarasa)

The robe of Celestis and the water folding fan of Sarasa; even within the divine tools of the new and old heroes, the divine tools of these two are the ones that are the most different in form.

The reason for it has been revealed.

“Compared to that, Celestis-san, that robe of yours feels like it is a representation of the wavering character of its user. The cloth that one would normally adjust to their own individual traits, you have utilized it just as it is; that’s unheard of. I am shocked by your blatant negligence.” (Sarasa)

“Is that so? I myself think that I have drawn a jackpot though.” (Celestis)

“That’s just because your brain is lacking!” (Sarasa)

A water blade was released again.

Celestis already didn’t try to stop it with a water bullet and concentrated on avoiding.

“You were always like that! No matter when, you would never be serious. You didn’t care about troubling others! Have you thought about how much trouble your arbitrariness causes to others?!” (Sarasa)

“At the very least, I don’t remember causing you trouble though?” (Celestis)

“Silence!” (Sarasa)

A slightly bigger water blade was going straight at Celestis.

Celestis, who had her posture crumbled due to the constant evasion, was unable to cope with it. She spread her robe and used it as a shield, somehow managing to deflect it that way.

But it doesn’t change the fact that this was one-sided.

“Celestis-san, a self-centered girl like you becoming a hero, wasn’t that a mistake in itself? Saying stupid things like being an idol, you are truly odious. I will correct that mistake of yours!” (Sarasa)

Is there nothing that can be done anymore?

Just when I thought this...

“I also think a little, you know.” (Celestis)

“Hah?”

“Especially since the time I began fighting together with Karen-chi and the others. ‘Just what can I do inside that team?’, I thought of it deeply. And the conclusion that came out was...to bring the best out of the water’s wide amount of uses.” (Celestis)

“What are you blabbering about?! I don’t care anymore. I am finishing you here!!” (Sarasa)

Just as she declared, Sarasa released her last water blade.

But...

splash!

“Kya?!”

The moment the water blade was released from Sarasa’s folding fan, it broke and dispersed. While making a big splashing sound.

“Look below you.” (Celestis)

Following her words, I noticed that the surroundings are in an abnormal state. It was flooded.

The floor of the battle stage that they were standing on was drenched as if a downpour had passed.

“It is the water I created. You were shooting so many water blades, cutting down all my water bullets. You were a great help in camouflaging. This water here has my divine power in it, so it moves on my whim. Just like this...”
(Celestis)

Celestis waves her robe.

As if in concert, the pool of water covering the floor shot a water bullet and grazed Sarasa.

“Hiih?!”

“The water blade that you shoot is basically a water bullet that has been thinned. That’s why, even if it’s strong against attacks from the front, it is weak against attacks from below. In rock-paper-scissors, the paper wins against the

rock because the paper covers it, but you see, in reality, the rocks penetrates the paper!!” (Celestis)

“Are you saying you shot down my water blade the moment I released it?! Were you in the defensive until now to create this water domain?!” (Sarasa)

“Let’s return to the talk a few moments ago. The strength of the water divine power is in their wide ways of use. My Miki-Moses can be said to be the divine tool that brings out this strong point to its highest.” (Celestis)

A simple cloth; the Miki-Moses that could even be described as that, would at times undulate, and at other times, it can become tough like a rock.

“The cloth is soft and can change its shape to anything. That’s why it can become a sword, spear, shield, and even an armor. When injured, it can become a bandage, a curtain that blocks the sunlight, an overcoat to endure cold; it can become anything.” (Celestis)

And in reality, at the fights with the giant monsters, we have been saved countless times by the handyness of Celestis.

Karen-san had been treated by her ‘Water Heal’ just a few moments ago too.

“Compared to that, Sarasa, what about you? Placing a bone to your cloth, you are now able to bring out a water blade from it. But because of that, you have lost all other uses. By specializing in attack, you have forgotten the important wideness of use. Is that really the correct form of the water hero?!” (Celestis)

“Shut up! [Water Blade]! [Water Blade]!!” (Sarasa)

Sarasa has been releasing water blades several times while Celestis was talking, but they were all shot down by the water bullets that came from below.

The flow of the battle had turned completely into Celestis’ side.

“Well then, I will now be showing you the water hero’s true way of fighting. [Water Blessing]!” (Celestis)

Celestis clads the surface of her body in water divine power and slides on the water drenched floor with overwhelming speed.

The ‘Water Blessing’ that’s originally used to walk on top of water, to think that it could be used in this kind of way.

And with that, she instantly closed the distance between her and Sarasa.

“[Water Rage]!” (Celestis)

“Ugyaaaaa!!” (Sarasa)

A water bullet released at close range, with that, Sarasa can’t intercept it with a water blade.

Aiming at that instant of an opening...

“On top of that, [Water Bag]!” (Celestis)

The water current that was released from her robe had imprisoned Sarasa in the blink of an eye.

A mobility technique, an offensive technique, and a restraining technique; it is certainly true that the variety in the water divine power is a lot.

“Damn you! Let me out! Let me OUT!” (Sarasa)

“Can’t. You can’t escape from the ‘Water Bag’. You don’t have the stamina remaining for that.” (Celestis)

Hm?

“The ‘Water Blade’ is certainly a powerful offensive attack, but it utilizes as much divine power. You are making high enough water pressure to cut through even iron after all. Who knows how much divine power you would need to create such pressure.” (Celestis)

Maybe she hit the bullseye, the beautiful face of Sarasa warped in mortification.

“Also, I will be correcting one misunderstanding you had. It seems you are thinking that you are the only one who can shoot those water blades with that water folding fan, but too bad, my robe can also shoot them.” (Celestis)

Celestis spreads her Miki-Moses wide and, just like that, she began to spin rapidly.

The cloth that’s endowed with water is heavier than what anyone could imagine and becomes hard.

By utilizing this, the Miki-Moses that had a large amount of water divine

power poured into it, took advantage of the centrifugal force of the turns and...!

“Revolving Style, [Water Blade]!” <Jutsu!> (Celestis)

A water blade that revolved like a boomerang was released from the Miki-Moses.

The water blade had sliced apart both the water prison and the captured Sarasa—or so I thought, but the water folding fan blocked it.

“Kyaaaaa!!” (Sarasa)

But the impact of it had destroyed the water folding fan, and, unable to kill all of the force, Sarasa herself was also send flying.

“Well, it is tiring so I normally don’t do it though. Cutting techniques are the specialty of Sasae-chi anyways.” (Celestis)

Chapter 198: Hated person

This is...should I take it as end of the match?

The blown away Sarasa somehow managed to stand up, but she is totally exhausted and doesn't look like she can move at all.

Her divine tool that served as her weapon has been destroyed, and no matter how I see it, there's no way to turnaround this situation.

"...Eh...Match ends, winner is Celes—" (Haine)

"Wait!!" (Sarasa)

"Woah!!" (Haine)

I was shouted at in an incredibly loud tone and was stopped.

Are you telling me you still have more to do, Sarasa?

"I still haven't...lost! Celestis-san, I will defeat you...!" (Celestis)

"..."

Celestis was watching this ghastly Sarasa with the calmness of a lake surface.

When I look at this, I end up wondering who is the older one here.

"...You, why is it that you hate me so much?" (Celestis)

"!!"

"It might be rude for me to say this but, you and I don't have any connection. Until the day you retired and I was chosen as the successor, we didn't even have any conversations. At the very least, I don't remember doing anything to make you hate me." (Celestis)

"Even if you don't...! I do!" (Sarasa)

'So I really was being hated!', is the kind of mentally fatigued sigh that Celestis let out.

"...I didn't want to say this, but I heard about this from Papa before the match began." (Celestis)

When she talks about Papa, she must mean the Water Founder, Ru Azul.

It is not officially approved, but they are both father and daughter.

“I heard that you participated in today’s match without telling the family you were married in.” (Celestis)

Eh?

What’s the meaning of this?

“The Ra household that you married into after retiring as a hero is a famous mercantile house in Hydra Ville. They are in a position where they can aim for the Water Founder spot if they wanted to. We thought the reason why you picked a fight with us this time was because there was that going on in the back, but early this morning, we received an urgent message from their head.”
(Celestis)

The head of the Ra household, in the eyes of Sarasa, it would be the father of her marriage partner –her father-in-law.

“

[I am truly sorry for the arbitrary actions of my son’s wife. Our household has no intentions of going against the Water Founder; this has all been done on his wife’s own volition. If need be, I will have my son divorce his wife in order to prove the innocence of our household

].” (Celestis)

Period.

“For you, the place you are married into is the place that you finally managed to gold-dig with that hero title you worked so hard for, right? What’s the reason to hate me so much to the point that you would throw away your dreamed celebrity life?” (Celestis)

“...”

Sarasa didn’t answer.

“.....Could it be...you are hating me because I was born from the womb of the Founder’s mistress?” (Celestis)

“That’s not it! I don’t care about that!!” (Sarasa)

“Then what?” (Celestis)

“It is because you are an idol! Even though you are a hero, you show zeal in such a show off game like being an idol! I really can’t forgive that!” (Sarasa)

Hearing the declaration of Sarasa, Celestis went ‘eh?’ as she made a bitter expression.

“Isn’t that something that shouldn’t be troubling you at all? No, well, I have my own thoughts regarding that, you see.” (Celestis)

“No! You *are*

troubling me! You are truly troubling me!” (Sarasa)

“Hm?”

“The good match that I finally found after harsh tribulations as a hero...! The third son of the wealthy Ra household; a handsome man with excelling physical ability and high academic achievements...!” (Sarasa)

The more I hear, the more I think it is a find of superior quality.

“I was truly happy being able to marry such a person, and yet...! Out of everyone, that person had to.....become a big fan of yours!!” (Sarasa)

.....

.....Hm?

“Eh? Fan? In other words, a fan of mine as an idol?” (Celestis)

“That’s right! He made a room for that exclusive use and, in there, it is filled to the brim with your idol goods! It is truly disgusting! He also doesn’t miss a single live performance of yours and boasts about it! In front of me,

his wife

! Do you know how I feel at those times?!! Can you imagine it?!” (Sarasa)

Uwaaa...that’s harsh.

“Uwaa~, well, thanks for the support.” (Celestis)

“Rather than thanking me, please apologize! Lately, he has been requesting

craftsmen to make a life-sized doll of you!! I did stop him in tears though!"
(Sarasa)

Is that what a rich person should be doing?! <or a person in general?! —not judging taste though

(◡‿◡) >

"My woman pride is already in tatters! I have thought many times of throwing away all the idol goods while he is away! But when I think about him losing his affection towards me if I were to do that! Aside from that one point, he is a truly rich, good-looking, and kind husband! This is horrible. So harsh!" (Sarasa)

Sarasa finally prostrated and began crying.

Her husband is infatuated with an idol —in other words, Celestis. And due to the jealousy of it, or more like, a personal grudge, the previous water hero Sarasa had participated in this battle.

I suddenly pity her.

"Hm, to think that I had stolen the heart of my Senpai's husband without knowing. I am truly a sinful woman." (Celestis)

Celestis-san, this is not the time to be pulling out jokes.

I won't be held accountable the time you are stabbed in the back by an unknown woman, okay?

"It has begun to feel pitiful. I am not a woman with such a crooked personality that would want to destroy the family of someone else. Is there a way to calm the situation down smoothly?" (Celestis)

"Are you going to give her the win this time?" (Haine)

Is what I put out on the table and...

"I definitely won't be doing that." (Celestis)

Of course you won't.

That's the Celestis we know and love.

For now, she ignores her crying Senpai for the moment and speaks to the audience.

“Everyone~! I am happy that you support me, but treasure your family as well, okay?!” (Celestis)

‘Yeeeaahh!!’, was the fervent response from the audience.

Second match; water hero match.

The match between the current hero Celestis and the previous hero Sarasa ended with the victory of Celestis.

Chapter 199: Third Match

Current hero vs previous hero; 1vs1.

The first match was won by Mirack and the second by Celestis from the current heroes team. We were leading by two points from the very beginning.

“With one more win, our victory will be decided-dasu!” (Sasae)

The third match will be the earth hero match.

If Sasae-chan wins, it will be the victory of the current heroes.

“Let’s put our expectations on the fourth match with Hyue-chi.” (Celestis)

“Eeeh?!” (Sasae)

Celestis, who was leaving the stage after finishing the second match, left words that held not a single shred of expectation.

The high-spirited Sasae-chan entering the stage was also shocked.

“What be the meaning of that-dasu?! Could it be ya think I will lose-dasu?!” (Sasae)

“Cause you know, in terms of hyping up the story, having all straight wins like this is impossible. In this occasions, you act the part of being in trouble.”
(Celestis) <Dayum, Celestis is basically talking about last chapter’s comments>

“Why ya so gungho on the dramaticness-dasu?! Ain’t it fine ta have a safe three straight wins?!” (Sasae)

I think what Sasae-chan is saying is completely correct.

Celestis who is a thrill-seeking idol to the bone expects thrills on everything she does.

“But you see, let’s be straight here and ask about the possible or not possible.” (Celestis)

“Dasu?” (Sasae)

“Can you win? Against *that*?” (Celestis)

The weeping Sarasa had already left and the next participant was standing there.

From the previous heroes team, the previous earth hero; lemon Yoneko.

A woman that has a ripe body that would make you think she herself is the Mother Earth God. But the bloodthirst that's coming out from that ripe body of hers was sinister and it was a league of its own even within the previous heroes.

"Oh my, by the time I noticed, I became the last barricade~." (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san obviously knows that if she were to lose, the previous heroes team will lose.

"But at those times, Sasae-chan also knows what the earth hero has to do at those times, right? We be related after all~." (Yoneko)

"Of course-dasu! When winning and when losing, what the earth hero does always be one-dasu!" (Sasae)

One, two, three, aaand~...

"Slaughter them all'-dasu!" (Sasae)

"Scary! What kind of phrase are they running by, these people?! Ei! Like hell I can stay in a battle stage where a bunch of killers are standing on! I will be resting in my own room!" (Celestis)

Maybe Celestis was affected by the earth heroes, she left after leaving ominous words behind.

With this, the battle stage consisted solely of the current and previous earth heroes.

At one side, there's Sasae-chan who is the youngest within the heroes. Her body hasn't grown much; she is small and thin. The earth scythe, Seeta, that she holds in her hand is her divine tool, and the unbalanceness of the weapon and the holder already gives out a dangerous impression.

On the other hand, there's the previous earth hero, Yoneko-san. This one has a perfected body both as a woman and as a fighter. It was truly fat well shaped. Moreover, the earth scythe Magdala that she uses is just slightly bigger than the size of a normal farming sickle. In other words, it is at a size that's adequate for

her body. There's no delay in her swings.

Sasae-chan and Yoneko-san; there's no pairing with as much difference in growth within the old and new heroes as this one.

I feel like I can understand the reason why Celestis gave up right from the very beginning of this fight.

The two glaring at the center of the stage.

They clash bloodthirst while waiting for the beginning signal.

"Ta think that I would have the chance ta fight against Sasae-chan after retiring as a hero~. It be quite the interesting generation~." (Yoneko)

"Everyone be saying that the era be moving to a new phase-dasu. In order ta not stop that movement, the inexperienced Gonbee Sasae will be facing Yoneko-nee-chan to the best of mah abilities-dasu!!" (Sasae)

Even though they are both relatives, what a thick bloodthirst they are releasing!

"As expected of mah grandchildren-sa ne."

"Waa?!" (Haine)

By the time I noticed, an old robed woman was standing right beside me.

It was the Earth Founder. The grandma of both the new and old heroes about to fight now, and she herself was a hero that had her name resonate in the long past.

"Oh my, Sobo-chan?!" (Yoneko)

"Sobo-chan, why ya here-dasu?!" (Sasae)

The two grandchildren of faraway ages were surprised and put their attention on the Oba-san.

"Lately, probably because of my age, mah eyes have not been that good. From that faraway, I would only see ya girls as specks." (Oba-san)

Oba-san lifted her chin and pointed the furthest part of the audience seats where the noble area is at.

“But since it be the match between mah grandchildren, I wanna watch it clearly from up close ya see. I don’t mind ya laughing at me fer being a stupid grandma.” (Oba-san)

No, your tone totally doesn’t allow anyone to laugh at it!

“Sobo-chan! Ya say that, but what about the care of mah child?! Ya said that ya would be looking after him. That be why I accepted participating, ya know?!” (Yoneko)

“Don’t fret, Yoneko. Yer child is right here.” (Oba-san)

Within the robes of the Oba-san’s arms, there was one small baby that wouldn’t even be in his first year of age. He was moving his eyes and neck restlessly as if everything he saw was novel.

“Ya as well wanted ta watch the fight of yer mother up close, right? Yer mother that makes blood rain be quite cool, ya know?” (Oba-chan)

Of course, there’s no way the baby would understand words yet, but the granny talks to him with a soft voice.

“Sobo-chan~! Do ya become that lenient when it be a baby-dasu?” (Sasae)

“To her daughter, she be an ogre; to her grandchildren, she be normal; and to her great-grandchild, she finally ended up being an idiot!” (Yoneko)

It looks like it is a family with a lot going on.

Leaving that aside, I will be beginning the match already!

Third match, earth hero match.

Current hero Gonbee Sasae vs previous hero lemon Yoneko.

“Match, begin!”

Chapter 200: Two ways of being

“Hieeeee!! Doeaaaa!! Wawawawawa!!”

At the same time as the match started, Sasae-chan was completely pushed back.

The combo attacks that Yoneko-san unleashes with her small scythe easily slipped through the big scythe of Sasae-chan and assaulted Sasae-chan herself.

As I thought, Yoneko-san is overwhelming Sasae-chan in terms of swings at tight turns.

“What be the matter~, Sasae-chan? Do ya want yer legs to be hunted by me that much?” (Yoneko)

“Don’t joke around-dasu! Fight back with [Edge Tornado]!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan turns using herself like a spinning top and aimed to slice Yoneko-san with the big scythe.

“More like, the ‘Giving More Openings’ technique, ya know?” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san lowered her body and easily evaded the big scythe that rotated at high speeds.

In that same lowered position, she was about to attack the legs of an opponent that could be said to be a spinning top...

“Hiiih!! Dangerous-dasu!!” (Sasae)

But Sasae-chan jumps immediately and avoids it.

Even so, Yoneko-san was absolutely merciless in her pursuit.

“Yoneko ain’t serious at all.” (Oba-san)

The Earth Founder Oba-san at my side says this. Is she doing the job of a commentator?

“If Yoneko had been serious, Sasae-chan would have both her legs gone a long time ago. Yoneko’s nickname in her active days be ‘Leg Hunter’.” (Oba-san)

“A pretty straightforward nickname.” (Haine)

“But...between Yoneko-san and Sasae-chan, there be way too much difference in skill.” (Oba-san)

This is a more despairing difference in strength than in the matches before with Mirack and Kyouka, or the match with Celestis and Sarasa.

“As I thought, the young Sasae-chan still hasn’t grown enough to challenge her Senpai?” (Haine)

“That be it too, but there be another reason why Sasae can’t win.” (Oba-san)

“Hm?” (Haine)

The words of the Oba-san drew my interest.

“What do you mean by that? Is there another point that’s pushing Sasae-chan into a disadvantage?” (Haine)

“That...just wait fer a bit. This little boy crapped. Have ta change diapers.” (Oba-san)

Eeeeeh?!

In the time the Oba-san had begun to change her great-grandchild’s diapers right in the middle of the battle stage, the life-or-death exchange of attacks continued.

The trait of the third match is that both heroes are violently moving around.

At the previous matches, it was a clash between the fire or the water divine powers respectively, but these earth heroes were going fiercely with physical combat.

This could be called a fighting style of the earth heroes that utilizes the earth divine power’s trait of controlling the body.

“Heave~Hoo~Heave~Hoo-dasu!” (Sasae)

“How pathetic~. Ya already losing breath? That be why they say that Golem users lack training, ya know?” (Yoneko)

Golem user?

“That’s right. That be the biggest difference between Yoneko and Sasae.” (Oba-san)

Oba-san, who seems to have finished changing diapers, was holding her great-grandchild between her arms.

“Just recently, we were in an inseparable relationship with the Golems. Ya also know that, don’t ya?” (Oba-san)

Well, yeah...

The Earth capital Ishtar Blaze had a strange cohabitation between humans and monsters called Golems.

The earth giants that were being birthed by the Earth Mother Monster, Grandma Wood, helped out humans, worked for humans, and were loved by many.

“For the earth hero that protects Ishtar Blaze, Golems be by no means existences they could ignore. After all, that big body and power, they be perfect to leave fer battle-sa ne. That be why the successive generations of earth heroes relied on Golems and fought together with ‘em.” (Oba-san)

Now that she mentions it, I wasn’t there myself, but I heard that Sasae-chan had controlled three Golems at Apollon City, and were overwhelming Karen-san and the others -a total of three heroes.

“In the Earth Church, they began to search fer a hero that had the highest competency in controlling Golems. A good earth hero also means to be a good Golem user-sa.” (Oba-san)

“Then, you were also in your time...” (Haine)

“No. In mah active days, the use of Golems in battle still haven’t gone that far, ya see. It be all about using one scythe to deal with all.” (Oba-san)

The scythe technique of the Oba-san, which I could only see in display for only a moment, was overwhelming after all.

In the time she was young, she utilized that young body of hers to deliver a severing hell huh.

“And so...Yoneko be also the same.” (Oba-san)

“Wa?”

“Yoneko be a rare case in this times. She was an earth hero that didn’t rely on Golems and specialized in physical combat. If Sasae’s type be called a Golem user, then Yoneko be a scythe user.” (Oba-san)

Hearing that answer, the information in my head overlapped perfectly.

The reason why Sasae-chan is at a disadvantage.

It’s not only because of the difference in experience and height.

Sasae-chan has been fighting together with the Golems and has become knowledgeable of their use. That girl is now using a single scythe without Golems at her side, and is fighting against Yoneko-san who is an expert at that type of combat.

That is exactly the disadvantage in this battle; the real reason for it!

After finishing another violent exchange of attacks, the two glare at each other.

“Sasae-chan, yer truly a useless child~. Relying all the time on yer Golems, yer ability with the scythe is practically as if ya haven’t learned how to use it at all. Can’t be helped. I am yer big sister here, so I will be teaching ya for a bit, okay~?” (Yoneko)

The earth scythe Magdala shines with a vicious light.

“Ya know, sickles be originally farming tools~. Waiting for the crops to ripen, ya reap the head that be coming out of the ground. It be a tool that’s made in order to cut as closest to the root as possible. That’s why, at the times when it be used as tools to kill, cutting as close to the ground be easier. I have been doing it just like that all the time. That’s why mah name ended up being ‘Leg Hunter’, ya know~?” (Yoneko)

Saying so, Yoneko-san separated her legs widely and lowered her body, like the posture of a cat that was about to jump onto its prey.

With her left hand, she rolls up her right arm’s sleeve. The thin arm that was now in view was like a white snake biting onto a scythe.

The fighting stance of Yoneko-san that she showed in the team battle.

“Listen well. When yer going ta cut yer opponent, ya have ta open yer legs

wide, okay~? To a point where ya can see yer face in the puddles of the rice fields. A good posture ta hunt legs. And from there...!!” (Yoneko)

The wind lets out a scream.

The distance between the two was closed in an instant.

“Uwa-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan quickly reacted and stopped it with her earth scythe. It also means that she had no leeway to even evade it, but the earth scythe and earth scythe scrape against each other as they release sparks.

“Dasuuuu!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan used all her strength to somehow manage to deflect the blade.

And then...

Slash

Stone blocks of the battle stage had been cut into two.

“Geeeeh?!” (Sasae)

“This is...!!” (Haine)

A gap that ran deep and far in length.

The blade that Sasae-chan diverted had left a remain like that deep on the floor.

We are at the moving city, Rudras Metropolis. Below us, there’s a giant ethereal machine construction.

The speaker soon sounded and a report came in. Fortunately, there were no casualties, and it seems that there was no damages with the Rudras Metropolis’ mechanism.

But that blade cut apparently ran all the way down the 15th underground floor.

“Ara, can’t do. It has been a long while, so I ended up overdoing it~. Next time, I gotta be careful and just aim to cut off yer legs. A good sickle can properly cut apart weeds and crops; and a good scythe can properly cut down

legs and their owner after all~.” (Yoneko)

Chapter 201: Loving Golems

Sasae-chan was in dire straits.

I -Kourin Karen-was watching this in worry along with my friends.

“Ah geez! What is Sasae-chi doing?! I didn’t ask for a battle that is this bad for the heart!!” (Celestis)

“Blade attacks that, just by receiving one, it will be the end; and she is being continuously attacked by those kind of attacks without leaving a chance to breathe. She is currently managing to evade them all, but honestly speaking, it is a situation where it wouldn’t be strange for it to end anytime soon.” (Mirack)

Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan, who had already finished their fights in a victory, were drawing cold sweat at the terrible situation before their eyes –as if they were the ones in it.

“A physical combat specialist and a Golem user; I knew that the earth heroes of successive generations were divided in two, but then, why is Sasae-dono not using Golems? She is already fighting an opponent whose skills are above hers. If she fights against her on her specialty, there’s no way she would have a chance of winning!” (Hyue)

Hyue-chan had a plausible question and everyone else agreed.

“That’s right! Sasae-chi should just use the Golems to drag it into her own territory!” (Celestis)

“Because of the age, Sasae is seen as the weakest one in our group, but if we were to add Golems to the equation, that view is completely wrong. In Apollon City, she actually fought on equal grounds against Karen, Celestis, and me at the same time.” (Mirack)

If she were to use the Golems, Yoneko-san wouldn’t be an impossible opponent to defeat.

But...

“Sasae-chan won’t use the Golems. She absolutely won’t.” (Karen)

My words gathered the attention of the other three.

“Eh? Why?” (Celestis)

“Now that you mention it, in the Rudras Metropolis fight before, Sasae didn’t show any signs of utilizing Golems.” (Mirack)

I speak out the words that Sasae-chan herself told me before.

“Golems were born from the Earth Mother Monster, Grandma Wood, right? But that Grandma Wood was erased by Haine-san. Golems won’t be born anew anymore and the ones remaining are all that’s left. They won’t be increasing in the future, and they will decrease in number as time goes, and in a few decades, they will be gone, she said.” (Karen)

“Well, yeah...” (Celestis)

“It was indeed that kind of situation.” (Mirack)

That’s why Sasae-chan decided on this.

She won’t be using Golems to fight anymore.

The number of Golems is already limited and they are only going to continue decreasing. By pushing them to the frontlines of battle, it will only accelerate the decrease even more.

Fighting will make them stand at the front of blades, damage them, and degrade them.

“...Sasae-chan said that Golems have a more important role.” (Karen)

‘Golems be necessary to rebuild the Ishtar Blaze that has been destroyed by the incident of Great Pillar-sama-dasu! Smoothin’ the jagged ground and rebuilding the houses-dasu!’

‘Using the Golems in battle when they have that duty would not be good-dasu! Golems won’t be born anymore, so the numbers be limited-dasu!’

‘Of course, if monsters attack, there be the need ta protect the people-dasu. But, in those moments, I have ta protect the people on my own-dasu! Because I be the hero after all!’

‘Heroes are there ta protect the people-dasu! It be no good if I be protected

by the Golems! It would have been okay if the times still be when Golems were born one after the other, but it already be different from before-dasu!’

‘The heroes that have the power ta protect ‘emselves, have ta manage something by ‘emselves-dasu! And the Golems will help the people of Ishtar Blaze with that share! The Golems that protect the people will be protected by me. That be my duty as a hero-dasu!’

That’s why Sasae-chan stopped using Golems for battle.

And so, she began learning the way to use her earth scythe from square one under the tutelage of the Earth Founder Oba-san, learned from Yorishiro-sama, and is beginning to obtain her own style.

“Sasae-chi...she looked like an idiot, but was actually thinking properly...”
(Celestis)

“When she returns, let’s hug her and praise her a lot!” (Mirack)

“I thought she was just a kid, but she was actually a splendid little girl!” (Hyue)

Everyone was moved.

Sasae-chan...from a hero that was protected by Golems, you have now begun to aim at being a hero that protects those Golems.

Your fight today with Yoneko-san will no doubt become an important trial for you.

A super-specialized physical combat earth hero that doesn’t rely on Golems.

Win or lose, that experience will become something meaningful.

But in order to even obtain that, she has to fight with her all without hesitation.

And so, Kuromiya Haine at site.

The conclusion felt like it was already visible.

Sasae-chan was evading the blade by a hair’s breadth everytime, and all the attacks that she didn’t manage to completely evade had taken a piece of skin along.

Those kind of cuts had accumulated, and as of now, she was filled with cuts all over.

Blood was flowing, and the blood loss was draining away her stamina.

“Your speed ain’t keeping up at all~. Do ya know why?” (Yoneko)

Compared to that, Yoneko-san who didn’t have a single scratch spoke.

“Your earth scythe Seeta is way too big for a single human to utilize~. It be created with the intention of having a Golem swing it around after all~. There be way too much difference in comparison to mah scythe that be made for human use~.” (Yoneko)

It is true that the scythe of Sasae-chan is way too big, therefore, her moves end up being way too wide. She can’t surpass Yoneko-san who is using a size fit for her at the shortest distance possible and at the fastest of speeds.

By the time Sasae-chan attacks, Yoneko-san’s attack has already finished and she has already fallen back to a safe distance.

“Are ya not gonna use Golems, Sasae-chan? I be looking forward to that today, so I requested my husband to look after the oldest child, and Sobo-chan to look after the youngest one, and yet...” (Yoneko)

“I won’t be using Golems anymore-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan declares as if tackling back.

“Golems are ta be used for the sake of the people of Ishtar Blaze-dasu! The heroes can’t interfere with that-dasu!” (Sasae)

“...I see.” (Yoneko)

There was a sound of something falling on the floor.

Something had fallen from inside the clothes of Yoneko-san. It looked like bricks; hard rectangular-shaped things.

“That’s...!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan was surprised at the sight of those numerous bricks.

“Life Blocks! Ain’t those Golem cores-dasu ka?! Why?!” (Sasae)

“I got ‘em from Sobo-chan as a condition to enter today’s battle~. Sasae-chan, if ya ain’t gonna use ‘em, I will be using ‘em, okay~?” (Yoneko)

The Life Block gathered the rubble from the floor and was forming a giant body. It was a familiar Golem creation scene.

“That be unexpected-dasu! Even in the active days of Yoneko-neechan, ya never used Golems ta fight, didn’t ya?!” (Sasae)

“I wanted ta try it at least once~, this kind of fighting style.” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san once again lunges towards Sasae-chan with a posture that resembles that of a wild cat, however, at its trajectory, there was one Golem that had finished forming.

Sasae-chan, the Golem, and Yoneko-san were lined up in a straight line.

At that positioning, the Golem would be in the way and Yoneko-san shouldn’t be able to attack Sasae-chan.

But contrary to expectations...!

Slash!

Yoneko-san had cut down the Golem with her scythe.

“Wa?!” (Haine)

“What-dasu?!” (Sasae)

Yoneko-san approaches Sasae-chan as she pushed pushed aside that opening she sliced open. Because the vision was blocked by the Golem, Sasae-chan’s reaction was late and, even when she retreated, she received a deeper wound than before.

“Gyaa!!” (Sasae)

And then, the Golem that was cut down must have been cut along with its Life Block.

It crumbled and turned back into rubble.

“Yoneko-neechan! Just what have ya done-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan shouted at the crushed Golem rather than her own injury.

“Great Pillar-sama be gone and no new Golems will be born-dasu! They be important-dasu yo! And ta use them in such an unreasonable way, no matter if it be Yoneko-nee-chan, I can’t forgive that-dasu!” (Sasae)

I have never seen Sasae-chan this angered before, but Yoneko-san received that with calm and composure. Or more like, I could even feel eeriness from it.

“That be something natural for me, ya know~. If it be important, more the reason ta destroy it~.” (Yoneko)

“Wa?!” (Sasae)

“Why do ya think I became a scythe user hero? ‘Why didn’t I use Golems when they prospered?’, the answer be simple~!!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san laughed in an eerie way that couldn’t get anymore ominous.

“Because I hate Golems to the core~. That be why I want to erase them from this world as fast as possible!” (Yoneko)

Chapter 202: Hating Golems

The Life Blocks that Yoneko-san had scattered around amounted to around 10. All of those had finished shaping themselves up.

But Yoneko-san cut them all up and made them disappear.

There were times when she would use the Golems to attack and tried to cut them down together with Sasae-chan, but there were times when she would simply cut them down for no reason at all.

It was clear that she was putting more importance in cutting down the Golems.

“Stop it-dasu, Yoneko-neechan! Golems still be important-dasu yo!” (Sasae)

“I don’t care about that~!” (Yoneko)

It is as one-sided as always, but Sasae-chan was desperately objecting.

“I don’t understand at all-dasu! Yoneko-neechan can win against me plenty enough without using such a hand like this-dasu! There be nothing as incomprehensible as petty tricks from the strong ones-dasu!!” (Sasae)

“Sasae-chan, I be regretting it, ya know? That I shouldn’t have retired from being a hero.” (Yoneko)

“Eh?”

“If I had waited for one year before retiring as a hero -just one year more-, I would have been blessed with the chance of fighting Great Pillar-sama myself~. It be truly a shame. That’s why I have no choice but ta cut down the leftover Golems ta relieve myself~!” (Yoneko)

The violent blade of hers had cut down another Golem.

This was already Golem bullying in the guise of a match. That’s how much hate I felt from Yoneko-san towards the Golems.

Why does she hold such hate?

“...Yoneko be the child of my fifth son and Sasae was the child of my eight

daughter.” (Oba-san)

“Huh?” (Haine)

The Oba-san wearing the Earth Founder’s religious clothing speaks.

“Both of them died.” (Oba-san)

“Wa?!” (Haine)

And she goes and says something even more shocking.

Died? As in, the parents of both Sasae-chan and Yoneko-san?

“It be in the same accident. That day was the one year birthday of Sasae, ya see. Yoneko’s parents had gone to ask about the celebration. Of course, Yoneko went together with ‘em. At that time, that girl be ten years old. Me and other people from the church were planning to ask them later as well, but the accident occurred before that.” (Oba-san)

At that day, a big earthquake attacked a part of Ishtar Blaze, and a number of buildings collapsed.

She said that Sasae-chan’s house was one of them. The family of Sasae-chan as well as the family of Yoneko-san, that had coincidentally visited them, were crushed by the falling house.

“The only ones that survived were the young Sasae and Yoneko. We later learned that the earthquake be caused by the root of Great Pillar-sama that was trying ta obtain nutrition deeper underground.” (Oba-san)

“That’s...” (Haine)

“The location that shook be way too specific after all. And then, Yoneko began to hate Great Pillar-sama and the Golems that be related ta it. Since the time the incident occurred, the two were raised by mah other children, but because of the hate Yoneko had towards the Golems, her relationship with others didn’t go well, ya see.” (Oba-san)

The constantly smiling Yoneko-san had such a past.

“Because of it, Yoneko got attached to the old me. And so, she naturally absorbed mah techniques, and became a scythe user that had no equal in Ishtar

Blaze. With that ability, the one who pushed her to be a hero was me. By becoming a hero and seeing the Golems helping out people from up-close, I thought that her spiteful attitude towards them would heal even if a little bit, ya see.” (Oba-san)

“But...from what I can see...” (Haine)

“Yeah. Even in the several years she worked as a hero, the hatred that took root inside her heart had not been pulled out. In the end, the heart of a human probably can’t be changed till death.” (Oba-san)

While we were conversing, the fight was reaching its climax.

The Golems had been reduced to the last one remaining and all the others had already had their Life Blocks cut down.

Sasae-chan was standing in between Yoneko-san and the Golem as if trying to protect it from her.

“Yoneko-nee-chan! Please stop it already-dasu! Stop the weird stuff and fight me seriously-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Speaking big when ya can’t even make me go serious~. But everyone aside from me and Sobo-chan be all the same. Relying on something like Golems, they have forgotten to polish themselves.” (Yoneko)

The scythe of Yoneko-san is pushed out towards Sasae-chan.

“The reason why Sobo-chan called me here today be also to teach that to ya~. Sasae-chan, learn this. Golems won’t be born anymore. There be no point in a fighting style that relies on them~. From today on, ya should throw away your feelings for the Golems from the bottom of yer heart, and be reborn to a true earth hero like me and Sobo-chan~.” (Yoneko)

“I already understand that-dasu!!” (Sasae)

The whole body of Sasae-chan trembled.

“But what Yoneko-nee-chan’s saying be mistaken-dasu!! The people of Ishtar Blaze have gotten this far together with the Golems-dasu. To forget that and throw away the Golems, that’s just ungratefulness-dasu yo!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan’s stance in this won’t change no matter what.

She believes in the Golems at all times and walks together with them.

Even if she is betrayed by them or hated by others, that pure faithfulness towards the Golems, at times, overwhelms even me.

“What a mysterious thing. Sasae and Yoneko have experienced the same accident, and yet, one hates Golems while the other loves them. They have walked completely contrary paths.” (Oba-san)

The Earth Founder Oba-san speaks once again from beside me.

“Ya may already know, but the houses in Ishtar Blaze were mostly made of transformed Golems. That be the same for the house that fell on the family of Sasae.” (Oba-san)

“What are you trying to get at?” (Haine)

“They be under a crumbling house, and yet, only Yoneko and Sasae were saved. Do ya know why? Because the Golems protected those two.” (Oba-san)

Wa?

Golems protected those two? What’s the meaning of that?

“At that day, the Golem core that had given shape to the house of Sasae was unable to cope with the sudden earthquake. But, even if late, it was able to assimilate the falling rubble and managed to protect what be inside of it. The ones saved by this be those two.” (Oba-san)

The Yoneko-san that was ten years old at that time was told to look after Sasae-chan who was still one year old.

Their parents were at the kitchen to do the preparations for the celebration, and that was what sealed their fate.

When the house fell, Yoneko-san apparently used her own body to protect Sasae-chan. But the rubble didn’t attack those two.

Before that happened, the life block had assimilated the rubble and had reformed into a shelter that covered the two from above.

That’s why, in that earthquake that had many deaths, those two didn’t have a single injury.

What was mysterious is that the Golem, that can only perform the orders that have been written beforehand on the Life Block, had for some reason moved on its own in order to protect those two.

“Even now, that reason be still unknown. But ya see, the only other way ta make a Golem obey orders aside from writing on the Life Block is to pour divine power on the level of a hero when ordering the Golem. Was it someone who ordered the Golem to do that by pouring divine power? That be also unknown...” (Oba-san)

But the one thing that can be said is that...

“Sasae, who was saved by the Golems when young, be truly the child loved by Golems. That talent, that disposition, it be something that won’t lose to anyone. That’s why that girl managed to become a hero at that young age. She wasn’t selected at that age just fer show!!” (Oba-san)

Sasae-chan stands upright even when completely injured.

“Yorishiro-sama!” (Sasae)

And then, for some reason, she suddenly called the name of the Light Founder.

“I be sorry but, the new technique that Yorishiro-sama taught me, I be displaying it here-dasu! This turned into a fight that I definitely must not lose-dasu! This time, I be truly clashing against ya with mah all-dasu!!” (Sasae)

Chapter 203: Mother's heart

A new technique taught by Yorishiro?!

What is the meaning of this? Now that I think about it, it seems like Sasae-chan and Yorishiro have been hitting it off lately and she has begun to teach her, but...what in the world did Yorishiro teach her?

It is not forbidden knowledge that is too soon for humans to know, right?!

“Wa~u!!”

Clank!!

Sasae-chan suddenly pierced the lower end of the earth scythe Seeta onto the stone floor.

“We earth heroes might look like we be simply swinging around our scythes, but in reality, it be different-dasu! Mah divine tool Seeta as well as yer earth scythe Magdala already have earth divine power flowing in ‘em-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Right. Because of this divine power, the earth scythe always maintains the best sharpness. The blade be as thin as hair, and the toughness surpasses steel. On top of that, adding resistance to its core, it will never break. A high level user can turn it light as a feather, and just right at the moment it be going ta cut the objective, turn it several tens of times heavier. Even if it ends up breaking, it automatically restores ta its original state.” (Yoneko)

All of those feats are possible because it is earth divine power.

From the five elements, the earth divine power is said to be the one that is the best for close combat.

“However, the divine tools are obviously not the only things ya can pour earth divine power into. To be blunt, as long as it be solid, anything be okay-dasu! Moreover, if we were to change the composition of a matter with the intent of using it as disposable...!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan takes out the handle of the scythe that was stabbed onto the floor.

“[Transmutation]!” (Sasae)

But the scythe wasn't simply pulled out. At the lower end of the handle that was buried in the floor, there was something that wasn't there before sticking onto it.

A chain.

Sasae-chan's scythe had become a sickle and chain?!

“By pouring divine power amplified by the earth scythe into the ground and stone, ya created the form of a chain huh. It be true that Golem users be good at that~.” (Yoneko)

“Just cutting and sticking ain't the only specialties of us earth heroes-dasu! Guts~~!!” (Sasae)

The chain end, that was turned around with force and gained momentum, flies straight towards Yoneko-san.

The counterweight that was sticking onto the end of the chain should be of the same hardness than the ones used normally. If you were to hit someone with that and at that speed, a part of your body would get blown away.

“A naiveness that makes me want ta puke~.” (Yoneko)

But Yoneko-san had read the trajectory of the chain's counterweight completely and cut the chain with her earth scythe Magdala.

About a human length size was cut off from the chain counterweight and flew into the air.

“If pouring divine power into a random pebble ya find around can become plenty enough power, there would be no need for a special divine tool to begin with, ya know~. Such a hastily made weapon will only serve to buy time. Ya telling me that be the technique ya learned from the Light Founder-sama?” (Yoneko)

“I still haven't shown ya everything-dasu!” (Sasae)

I could tell that Sasae-chan poured more divine power to her chain via the earth scythe Seeta. By doing this, the part of the chain that was cut off transformed into a weight counterweight again as it attacks Yoneko-san.

“Wa?!”

If I were to put an example, it would be like a snake that had its neck cut off and soon grew its head back to attack you.

Moreover, it was at close range. Even so, Yoneko-san who is the most adept in close combat managed to avoid it at the very last moment.

“That gave me cold sweat~.” (Yoneko)

“It still ain’t over yet-dasu! The real objective is...!” (Sasae)

The end of the chain, that had been cut by Yoneko-san just now and had already regrown thanks to the divine power supply of Sasae-chan, began to dance vigorously in a way that defied imagination and once again attacked Yoneko-san.

“Hwaa?!”

Yoneko-san who was continuously evading the continuous attacks had her posture crumble, and this time for sure, she couldn’t evade it.

The chain that was cut off before coiled around her leg and made her fall grandly.

“Even when it leaves the hands of the user, ya can still order it for a short period of time if ya have poured divine power into it-dasu!!” (Sasae)

“Gwu!! So ya were planning on having it cut off from the very beginning~!” (Yoneko)

Sasae-chan wrapped more chains around Yoneko-san and bound her hands and legs.

Yoneko-san doesn’t look like she can move a single finger anymore.

“Splendid...be what I should say? Stopping mah movements like this, ya be thinking of finishing me off?” (Yoneko)

“I won’t be falling for that-dasu! Even if ya were to have both yer hands and legs bound, Yoneko-neechan be the type ta bite off the windpipe of yer opponent with yer free mouth at the end-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Tch, as expected of a relative, ya can see right through me~~.” (Yoneko)

Was she really going for that?

Then, if you were to think that you had stolen the freedom of movement from all her body and get closer to her..... Scary!!

“...Sorry to say but, from the very beginning, I been thinking of stopping the movements of Yoneko-nee-chan-dasu.” (Sasae)

Huh?

“Mah divine power is still slow in output, and it takes times to send the necessary divine power to the earth and stones. That be why I can’t use it in actual combat, be what Yorishiro-sama told me to stop me from using it-dasu. But counting the time I was swinging the chain around, I had poured plenty enough divine power into the floor-dasu!” (Sasae)

The feet of Sasae-chan made a *crack crack* sound.

What is going to happen?

“...This feels...bad~!!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san must have felt the danger as well. She tried her best to struggle and get out of the chains.

It took her around 5 seconds to free herself from the chains.

Yoneko-san desperately ran towards Sasae-chan after that, but...

She didn’t make it in time.

A hand had suddenly come out from the floor and obstructed the charge of Yoneko-san.

“Wa?!”

Surprised, Yoneko-san made a sudden brake.

The hand that appeared was truly gigantic. To the point that it would easily be able to grab Yoneko-san whole.

And that arm seemed to be made up of some sort of mineral.

Stone and earth that had been transmuted by the earth divine power.

“Show yerself-dasu! Earth Giant that has taken form with my divine power!”

(Sasae)

An earth giant appeared from the floor.

It was all transmuted from the divine power of Sasae-chan and taken form.

That build was gigantic, truly gigantic.

It is a lot bigger than any of the Golems I have met until now. And from this, I could tell the amount of divine power Sasae-chan has to even be able to create something like this.

“You had this much divine power capacity, Sasae-chan?!!” (Haine)

I heard that Karen-san had abnormal amounts divine power, but isn't Sasae-chan surpassing that by a lot more?

The Earth Founder was speaking about something regarding that, and the reason why Yorishiro decided to teach her might have been because she saw through that ability of hers.

“This be a Golem?! Ain't this a Golem?!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san was shaking in fear.

“A Golem without a Life Block?! Ya telling me an earth hero has created a Golem out of earth divine power transmutation only?!” (Yoneko)

No, before that, to even manage an accurate human shape with the earth transmutation method... The body has one of the most complicated structures in the surface world. And even if it is a super simplified version made for an earth Golem, to create a human image, wouldn't it require elaborate ability to the point that it could snap a blood vessel in your brain?

And yet, this thing that Sasae-chan has created...! If I were to describe Golems as simple humanoid shaped, the one right before my eyes is the very definition of a human.

A human; a goddess statue with the form of a beautiful woman.

“This be the fruits of Yorishiro-sama's teachings-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan was riding on the shoulder of the Goddess Golem that she herself had created.

She then jumped down onto the ground.

“I be fighting together with the substitute Golem I created. This be the new fighting style of the earth hero Sasae-dasu! Yoneko-nee-chan! Prepare-dasu!”
(Sasae)

Chapter 204: The girl that became a mom

There was still one Golem of Yoneko-san remaining on the stage.

The humbly made Goddess Golem of Sasae-chan easily crushed it.

Confirming the safety of the Life Block that remained, Sasae-chan carefully puts it away.

“Now then, Yoneko-neechan! It be time to fight once again-dasu! I won’t be stepping back one bit-dasu yo!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan challenges Yoneko-san straight with the Goddess Golem at her back.

Not fighting while hiding in the shadow of the Golem, but simply going to fight herself and let it join. That’s why her grandma took her in as her disciple and taught her the use of a giant scythe.

She is trying to obtain a battle style that is not similar to anyone else’s.

“Yoneko-neechan! I be beginning an awesome party-dasu! Yoneko-neechan?” (Sasae)

The Yoneko-san in question was completely spaced out while looking up.

She is staring intently at the Goddess Golem that Sasae-chan made.

“Sasae-chan, this appearance...where did ya learn of it?” (Yoneko)

“Eh? Ya talking about the appearance of this Golem-dasu ka? I don’t know-dasu yo. When I randomly made one, it ended up this way-dasu. Inspiration-dasu.” (Sasae)

The appearance of the Golem that Sasae-chan created can be called a beauty.

Different from the one that is born out of a Life Block, this one was the very definition of completion. The figure itself is exactly that of a human.

It is as if the sculpture of a talented artist had received life just like that...or more like, the motif is that of a beautiful woman of...bountiful chest.

Why did Sasae-chan unconsciously create an appearance like this?

“Well, that be of no importance right now-dasu! From now on, we will be hunting each other’s life-dasu! I be showing ya the evolution of the hero Sasae-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan was talking big, but as expected, Yoneko-san was still spaced out.

And then...

“I give up~.” (Yoneko)

She suddenly said this.

“This match, it be fine with my loss~. I can’t fight anymore~.” (Yoneko)

“Eeeeeeeeeeh?!!!”

The one who was the most surprised by this declaration was her opponent, Sasae-chan.

“What be the meaning of this-dasu?! That ain’t something fitting of Yoneko-neechan-dasu yo! Yoneko-neechan be the type that would bite the windpipe of someone even if she were to be left with only her head, ain’t that right?!” (Sasae)

“That be quite the thing yer saying about me~. But ya see, being shown this figure, my poisonous nature was all taken out~.” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san once again says as she looks up at the Goddess Golem.

“Just what be going on-dasu? What in the world did I create-dasu ka?” (Sasae)

“Seeing that ya haven’t noticed at all, it truly must have been unconscious huh~. Look properly, Sasae-chan.” (Yoneko)

Saying that, Yoneko-san held Sasae-chan’s body and made her face the Goddess Golem.

“That’s yer mother~.” (Yoneko)

“Mother?! Mah mother was a stone Golem-dasu ka?!” (Sasae)

“No no no, that ain’t what I mean. I am saying that this Golem be identical to yer mother~.” (Yoneko)

Eh?

“Mother? The mother that died when I be a baby-dasu ka?!” (Sasae)

“From that reaction, I can see that ya really didn’t know~. Furue-neesan ain’t only the mother of Sasae-chan, she was also an earth hero. She retired with marriage in mind and gave birth to ya, Sasae-chan. And then, that accident occurred.” (Yoneko)

The earthquake caused by the root of Grandma Wood. Because of that, the house collapsed and Sasae-chan’s and Yoneko-san’s parents were crushed beneath the rubble.

“Ya see, even now, I still think about it~. Why did the Golem that was serving as the house protect Sasae-chan and I? Furue-neesan was a Golem user too in her active days. Right before she was crushed by the rubble, maybe she managed to send divine power to order the Golem.” (Yoneko)

‘Protect my daughter’.

The feelings of the mother that wanted to protect her daughter even when in front of her own death is what made the Golem move.

“We don’t know what actually happened. No matter how good of a Golem user ya are, sending an order to a distant life block with no divine tool be next to impossible. Maybe Sasae-chan, who was born with talent from the very beginning, unconsciously ordered the Golem ta protect herself. But...” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san walks to a different direction. She holds her own baby that was being taken care of by the Earth Founder Oba-san.

“I be a mother myself now. That’s why, the amount of times I think about what Sasae-chan and mah parents were feeling at that time has increased. In that past, I only be thinking that I hate Great Pillar-sama who took away my important people, and hated the Golems that were in the same league. I could only think about that.” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san embraces the baby that she endured pain to give birth to.

“This hatred won’t ever disappear. The people of Ishtar Blaze be all stubborn after all~. But ya see, today, at this moment, seeing the Furue-neesan that be trying ta protect her own child even as a sculpture, I felt as if I had been scolded~.” (Yoneko)

...

“‘Ya have already become a mother, and yet, ya can only think about yerself?’, be what I feel she telling me. Even if I will be hating Golems for the rest of mah life, I can’t be showing this figure of mine to my children. It be painful to be seen as an ‘unsightly mother’ by yer own kids, ya know?” (Yoneko)

“Yoneko-nee-chan...” (Sasae)

“Sasae-chan, ya went through the same experience as me, and yet, didn’t end up hating the Golems. I thought it be because ya were too small to remember anything...but it might have been a bit different. Yer loved by the Golems, ya know? That, or...by the soul of Furue-neesan that is inside the Golems.” (Yoneko)

The Goddess Golem that was transmuted with difficulty had ended up not having a moment to shine.

Sasae-chan once again looks at that figure.

“This be my mother-dasu ka?” (Sasae)

In Ishtar Blaze where the ethereal development was slowed because of the Golems, there were no accessible tools to easily leave records like those of photographs.

It is indeed possible for this to be the first time Sasae-chan has seen her own mother.

While this was happening, Yoneko-san speaks with her grandma.

“Hey Sobo-chan, stop crying and look properly~. It be a long time since ya have seen the figure of yer daughter, ya know?” (Yoneko)

“Shat up! I ain’t crying-sa ne!” (Oba-san)

Ah, and here I thought she had suddenly fallen silent.

“But Sobo-chan truly is ill-natured~. Ya weren’t only thinking about ripening Sasae-chan with this fight, ya were thinking of doing that with me as well. Thanks ta that, it might be possible for me ta become a better mother~.” (Yoneko)

Rather than adhering to hatred, Yoneko-san noticed that she should be teaching her beloved child.

Sasae-chan has unconsciously fostered a mother.

The earth heroes match ended with an unexpected mood.

“Now then, referee Nii-chan, please close it~.” (Yoneko)

“Hm?”

“Weren’t ya listening to what I said before? I surrendered, ya know? In that case, there only be one thing ta do~.” (Yoneko)

Right. I am the referee right now, so there’s one thing I gotta do.

Bring an end to the match.

“Third match, due to the surrender of the previous hero side, the current heroes team -Gonbee Sasae-wins!!” (Haine)

“Wait!”

A broadcast suddenly rang together with an ear piercing sound.

This voice is...!

“A surrender is not allowed. You are ordered to continue the match!”

Chapter 205: Vain Struggle

“This is an order from the match administration. Surrenders are not allowed. The match has to resume until a conclusion is reached.”

5 matches in the current heroes vs the previous heroes.

Just as the third match, was about to finish due to a verbal agreement –no, can it be explained as simple verbal agreement?

“Oh my, what unreasonable people~. They telling us to fight until one of us dies?” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san, the person that surrendered, was amazed by this.

“Well, I understand what they wanna say-sa ne. The first and second match be also the wins of Sasae and the others after all.” (Oba-san)

The Earth Founder Oba-san, that had stopped her tears, says this boldly.

The first and second match were won by the current heroes team; with the victory of Sasae-chan in the third match, the victory of the whole team would be decided.

By the way, I have no intentions of throwing a bomb.

“Well now, this be quite the bad joke~. Sorry but, I can’t tag along with this. I been missing mah husband and my older child, so I wanna return right now~.” (Yoneko)

But the broadcast increased even more in volume and shouted.

It is a voice I have heard of before.

“Shut up! Fight! Today’s match is programmed to have us win!! A result other than that is unacceptable!! The third, fourth, and fifth match will end with the previous heroes turning the tables with three straight wins! That’s obviously how it is! Don’t go ruining the outline I have drawn, Earth Church’s country bumpkin!!”

That voice, so it really was the General of the Aurora Knights, Dobbe huh.

“Lad, hey Lad.” (Oba-san)

The Earth Founder says with a tiresome voice.

“Just finish it already. I wanna return to mah room and drink tea.” (Oba-san)

She is totally right.

I announce in a loud voice so that everyone in the venue can hear me.

“Third match, current earth hero Gonbee Sasae’s victory!! With this, the current heroes team that has obtained three wins first is the winner!!” (Haine)

““Ooooooooo~~h!!!””

Applauses and cheers exploded in the venue.

The audience here are people that came from the five major powers: the Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Light nations.

This means that the strength and legitimacy of Karen-san and the current heroes has been witnessed by the people of the whole world and was acknowledged.

“Don’t go deciding that yourself~~~!!!” (Dobbe)

It looks like the Knight General Dobbe finally felt that a broadcast wouldn’t be enough, he came running to the battle stage.

He forcefully pushed away the tumult of people that he encountered on the way, and even when he pushed away children and women, he didn’t care.

With bloodshot eyes, he approaches me.

“The match just now is not valid! No, this is the lost of the current heroes due to foul play! Bringing such a crazy big statue like that, there’s not a single trace of dignity in such an action!!” (Dobbe)

“Ya saying that the statue of mah mom is stupid-dasu to?” (Sasae)

Those words made Sasae-chan burn in blunt bloodthirst.

“The match before too! And the match before that one too! It is the defeat of the current heroes due to foul play!! In the first place, what is with you! Aren’t you a person in the side of the Founder Yorishiro?! Someone like that doing the

job of a referee, there's no doubt that you made verdicts that were advantageous for the current heroes! That's why all the matches until now are invalid!" (Dobbe)

"Then, want to clean up the matches of today completely? Counting the team match not long ago, the entrance gate allocations, and even the referee girl that utilized a bomb." (Haine)

"Guh?!"

My words made Dobbe stop his breathing.

What an idiot.

Why is it that he can complain about others when he himself has mud at his back.

"T-There's no need to investigate that! There was no foul play there! The suspicious ones are you guys!" (Dobbe)

"Do you seriously think such childish logic is going to work?" (Haine)

"Are you making fun of me?! I am the Aurora Knight's General! The most proficient military power of the Light Church! It is different from the other trash churches!!" (Dobbe)

Just like that, Dobbe changed his talking target to the crowd.

"Everyone, listen! The current heroes and Founders are trying to destroy the world!! Breaking the current established order, they are trying to bring corruption and chaos. In the first place, the prospering Light Church mixing with the other third-rate trash is a blasphemy to beauty!! Everyone thinks so as well, right?!" (Dobbe)

There were many others here aside from the people of the Light Church. Just what is this idiot saying in a place like this?

"It is wrong to decide such an important thing with a clash of brute strength! Let's take the opinion of everyone! The majority rule! Everyone should know who is in the right here! If it is with this, there's no chance we will lose!!" (Dobbe)

But the reaction that came back was not even necessary to guess –it was the

appropriate reaction to it.

The venue that was burning in excitement by the victory of the current heroes team, the venue that raised cheers like a tsunami...

Was completely silent.

It fell into silence in an instant.

“Waa?!!”

The pressure of that silence makes Dobbe stagger.

The cold stares of thousands in the venue were mixed with scorn.

There’s no way they wouldn’t think of today’s events as strange. Everyone has left it to themselves for now and continued watching, but if it had ended with the victory of the previous heroes just like that, who knows what kind of chaos would occur later.

An idiot wouldn’t understand that though.

Who knows how much trust he has lost with that ‘safe’ method he speaks of.

Just as the Water Founder says: ‘trust is the most important asset’.

You guys, who readily broke the rules, have lost the trust of the people; in contrast, Karen-san and the others, who were standing straight even when attacked by that unreasonableness, had moved the people and have obtained huge amounts of trust.

That is the result of this.

Karen-san and the others have not simply won, that victory has been witnessed by the civilians.

They didn’t simply win on their own.

“Grrrr!!”

He should just stop it, and yet, Dobbe squeezed out the last of his pride and shouts.

“What’s with those eyes?! Do you think it is okay to look at me with those eyes?! I am the General of the Aurora Knights, you know! A holy knight that is

several tens of times higher than you heretics! Obey me! You are not allowed to go against me!! You idiots should just silently obey me!!!” (Dobbe)

Just by leaving him alone, he digs deeper and deeper.

This fight, looking at it in a political perspective, is a confrontation between the Hero Alliance and the Pro-Reconciliation side against the Contra-Reconciliation side.

No matter the decision it is, when it involves many people, there will always be people against it; everyone will try to see things to their own advantage and will fight in order to avoid any harm to themselves.

At times, they even fight for the sake of their stupid pride and feeling of superiority.

The Dobbe that’s in front of me is exactly the very example of that.

There’s no need to be a genius to tell that he is in the Contra-Reconciliation side.

He is the one in the Light Church that believes himself to be the most excelling and gains a sense of superiority by looking down on others.

He can’t be satisfied unless there’s someone below himself. He can’t endure having someone stand above him.

Even if it is a delusion created by himself, for him, the other four churches must be below the Light Church.

However, there’s no need for the world to tag along with his prejudice.

If words don’t work, there’s no other choice but to eliminate it by force...

“Leave it at that, General...”

The moment I was about to punch Dobbe away, someone appears.

Carrying a spear in one hand, she has the appearance of an innocent person, and yet, I can only see her as suspicious-looking...

“Ooh, Ates-dono!” (Dobbe)

The previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates.

Why is the girl that's supposed to be on standby as the fifth match participant here for?

"Ates-dono! You say it as well! This match is filled with deception! Justice is going to fall and evil will bloom! There's no doubt that foul play occurred from the shadows! In the first place, I think that you are the one that's the most fitting to be the light hero. That filthy little girl that's the current hero is just a fake——Guhoohoo?!" (Dobbe)

WA?!

Ates suddenly punched Dobbe!

Unable to endure the strength, Dobbe gets send flying away.

"Silence, filth. You are the one who did the foul play." (Ates)

"What?! What are you saying?!" (Dobbe)

The cheek, that had been punched, swoll heavily, and Dobbe was showing an expression that was saying he didn't understand what was going on.

They are supposed to be in cahoots in the shadows.

"I, the previous light hero Sunnysol Ates, will indict this person right now. Aurora Knight's General, Zeberphon Dobbe, you will be prosecuted for the many foul plays that were done by the Church's Contra-Reconciliation side!!" (Ates)

Chapter 206: The Fox Woman dances

“Wa...What are you saying, Ates-dono? You are in our si—Gehooooo!!”
(Dobbe)

Dobbe was about to say something, but Ates kicks him again.

“First of all, at the team match just before, the entrance gates serving in favor of the Contra side was an intentional thing. Utilizing this box that has a gimmick in it.” (Ates)

Saying this, Ates takes out a box that has a hole big enough to place a hand inside.

“Ah! If I remember correctly, we took out the ballots inside of it ta decide from what entrance gate we be coming out from-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan testifies as a person present at that moment.

“Moreover, the reason why the girl that was in charge of being the referee acted in such a violent manner was due to the instigation of the Contra side. I have secured the contract that they had her sign in order to have her work as their puppet.” (Ates)

“Waaa?!”

Dobbe stands up even when he had been beaten up.

“Stop it, Ates! Do you understand what you are doing?! You were also in favor of our ideologi—Buaagh!!!” (Dobbe)

Punched again.

Ates continues speaking as if nothing has been happening from the very beginning.

“On top of that, I have brought and arranged the documents of the insurgents that were involved in this time’s plotting. I want to present this to the Founders!” (Ates)

That’s...isn’t that the very materialization of what Yorishiro and the others were aiming for in this match?!

In order to clean out all the contra-reconciliation side, that is going against the standard bearers of a new era, there's the need to have a good grasp of who they are first.

That's the reason why we hung a tempting bait like having all the heroes and Founders retiring if we were to lose the match between current and previous heroes; and even let them do as much cheating as they wanted.

It was all in order to have the other side get overconfident and have them peek out of their hiding.

Karen-san and the others endured gruelling fights for that sake.

No matter what kind of underhanded method they used, no matter how injured they got due to that, they gritted their teeth as they continued fighting!

The very thing that we worked so hard for was currently dangling in front of us.

And yet, what's with this...this feeling that's hard to agree to?

"Wait." (Haine)

I call to Ates.

I was aware that my voice had hostility in it, but I simply couldn't hold it back.

"You are from the contra side, right? You were in cahoots with that Dobbe there, pressed today's match forward, and tried to push down Karen-san and Yorishiro. Why are you turning over now?" (Haine)

At such an easy to see timing where the current heroes have won three matches and the winners of the team match has been decided.

"It looks like you are having a misunderstanding here. I have never been the enemy of Yorishiro-sama and the others for even a second." (Ates)

"What?!" (Haine)

"I am a former hero; me being part of the Church is a thing of the past. Meaning that, no matter from which side you see it from, I am an outsider. Being held up high on the convenience of the contra side was a pain all over, but I had a great idea." (Ates)

“A great idea?” (Haine)

“By using this situation, I was wondering if I could help my benefactor Yorishiro-sama.” (Ates)

Saying this, Ates smiled lightly.

Is she elated by her success? Or is that self-derision? Or maybe that’s just a complimentary smile? It was a vague smile that had a different impression depending on the person seeing it.

“In other words, from the very beginning, you had no intentions of going against Yorishiro, and yet, you made it look that way so that you could infiltrate the Contra-Reconciliation side?” (Haine)

“...”

Without saying a ‘yes’ or a ‘no’, Ates smiled.

An expression that could be taken as both an affirmation or a negation.

“By acting as if you were their comrade, you sounded out their internal conditions, investigated the ins and outs of it, to give that information to Yorishiro. With that, the contra side is done for. Was that what you were aiming for?” (Haine)

“Yes.” (Ates)

Ates answers.

Like hell I can believe that!

If the previous heroes were to win today’s match, she would have remained in the contra side as if nothing had happened, and then, with Karen-san gone, she would have taken a political position!

In other words, this woman has created a scenario where, no matter which side won, she would not only secure her safety, she would also manage to make a comeback to political power.

By easily abandoning the side that has lost!

“[Dark Matter, Set]!” (Haine)

Dark Matter gushed out from my hands.

If we let this woman do as she wants, this truly will have no end!

“Stop!”

?!!

When I turn back, I see that Yorishiro had at some point in time come down to the battle stage.

The audience that is filling the venue has also not said anything in order to oversee the situation.

“Did you forget, Haine-san? She was a former light hero.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro whispers to me in a low voice and made me remember something I had forgotten between my anger.

My dark matter can erase all divine powers, but the only one that I can't do that to is the light element.

“Previous light hero, Ates-san.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro moves forward as if relaying.

“Good work in your infiltration. Let's have you give me those documents with the names of the contra side at once then.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro!

It could be said that the documents Ates has are the very objective we were here for.

Are you telling me Yorishiro will just accept it just because of that?

“Before that, there's something I want to request.” (Ates)

Ates says this as she kneels reverently.

“I want to receive words of gratitude in regards to this time's work. Please acknowledge my achievement in this place.” (Ates)

!!

That's basically making Yorishiro say that she made Ates destroy the Contra-Reconciliation side, and on top of that, it is also telling her to make it official that she was working under the orders of Yorishiro!

Is she going to go that far in order to secure her own safety?!

“Yorishiro-sama!”

Another person jumps onto the stage.

It is no other than the one other related party of the Light Church, Karen-san.

“Please don’t accept something like that! We have won! We have achieved our objective plenty enough!” (Karen)

‘Please don’t mix in poison just for further achievement’, is what I felt Karen-san was saying.

That was in a sense a predicament for Ates.

If she were to be rejected by Yorishiro and Karen-san, she won’t be able to return to the contra-reconciliation side and will have no place to go.

But...

Yorishiro took the documents of Ates in her hands.

“Good work, Ates. Kazama Shinobis, please apprehend Ates-san.” (Yorishiro)

“?!”

In the blink of an eye, several black-clothed people appeared around Ates.

Kazama Shinobis; the military power of the Wind Church located at the Rudras Metropolis we are currently in. If something were to happen, it is natural for them to be the ones acting, but...

“Yorishiro-sama?!” (Ates)

Being surrounded by the black-clothed people, Ates raises her voice.

“Please don’t misunderstand, Ates-san. These documents that have the names of the contra side, there’s absolutely no assurance that they are the real deal. I am not as careless as to acknowledge your merits before knowing for sure that these are real.” (Yorishiro)

“...”

“You must have wanted to gain a pledge while things were still hazy, but due to the warning of Karen-san, the atmosphere cleared up. Until the authenticity

of these documents are confirmed, I will have you apprehended..... Proceed at your own discretion.” (Yorishiro)

With Yorishiro’s signal, the Kazama Shinobis pressed Ates forward...and while at it, they also dragged out the unconscious Dobbe as they left the stage.

...Is this the end now?

They won the first team match, and after that, the individual matches that were basically forced onto them ended with three straight wins. On top of that, the closest ringleaders we had -Ates and Dobbe-have been apprehended.

Everything has ended in our favour.

It can be said to be a grand victory.

But for some reason, I feel like the battle still continues.

What is with this dissatisfying feeling?

“Sad to say, it is not over yet.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro who was still standing on the stage said this.

“The reason why I came down here was not only to receive the list of the people to be executed that Ates-san had. It was also in order to communicate the information that the lookouts of Rudras Metropolis have told me.”
(Yorishiro)

Lookouts? Must be talking about the people keeping watch at the outer edge of the city. They watch out for dangers that come from the outside.

And if we talk about dangers...

“...A strange monster has appeared. It is steadily approaching this place.”
(Yorishiro)

Yorishiro speaks about a mysterious monster approaching, but...is that really the source of my uneasiness?

Chapter 207: Slime

Monster.

That single word changed the situation completely.

In this Wind capital where the current heroes and previous heroes match is being held, there's apparently a single monster that has been confirmed heading to where we are.

"This is something that has been taken by the far-sighted camera that is set up at the outer edges of the city." (Shiba)

Gathering after receiving the report, we were shown a photo by the Wind Founder Shiva.

As a matter of course, a monster was pictured in it.

".....What's this?"

If I had to put it in words, it would be a water steam bun.

It is transparent and round. Even when I am only looking at the photo, I could feel that mushy body.

"This is the monster that's currently heading here." (Shiva)

Shiva says.

He is the person that holds the highest of responsibilities in the safety of the city we are currently in.

"Don't get deceived by the peaceful-like appearance of it. It is hard to tell from the photo, but this thing is crazy big. It may not be as big as a Mother Monster, but it is comparable to the data of the Fire Cow and Great Sea Dragon we have." (Shiva)

"Meaning that it is super-sized class?!"

This round steam bun?

It has a completely soothing appearance that just doesn't give me a sense of danger at all.

“But it is an opponent that’s a lot more dangerous than its appearance lets out to be. Look here.” (Shiva)

Shiva points at another photo. In there, there’s the same water steam bun monster, but...

“Look closely below its feet!” (Shiva)

You say below its feet, but there’s no feet...

Hm? What’s that?!

I don’t know if this thing actually has a liquid body, but at any rate, its semi-transparent body had trees assimilated inside it, and they were dissolving!

The camera had clearly caught the objects that had been engulfed and were being melted into nothingness.

“?! Scary-dasu!” (Sasae)

“If such a thing were to enter the city, it would turn terrible. Moreover, the worst thing is that this monster is heading straight here. There’s no doubt that its objective is here!” (Mirack)

Monsters heading to human settlements to attack them is a thing that happens often, but it is coming from quite the faraway place.

“But we are at the giant moving city, right? Can’t we run away from it?” (Haine)

“We are already doing that, but this water steam bun is chasing after us even with that. Right now, we are in a state where we are moving, but we can’t separate from it. To tell you the truth... this place doesn’t have that much mobility. Places like mountains and palacides, there’s a lot of locations that it can’t move to due to the terrain, and the time it can move continuously isn’t that long either. Once it moves for a certain amount, there’s the need to recharge and give it maintenance.” (Shiva)

“Meaning that we won’t be able to escape for long.” (Haine)

“We are planning on doing many improvements to it, but at present, there’s no other way for this city to survive but to defeat that thing!” (Shiva)

Shiva hits the photo of the monster with his fist.

“As of now, this monster will be named Slime, and the Wind Church will do its all to subjugate it!” (Shiva)

“Yes, Aniue-sama.” (Hyue)

His sister Hyue who was at his side answers.

“I will be giving you full command of the Slime subjugation, wind hero! Lead the Kazama Shinobis and intercept it at once!” (Shiva)

“No.” (Hyue)

“Oi~~~~!!” (Shiva)

Shiva immediately acts like a fool.

Well, he was suddenly answered by the hero in a way that’s not fitting of a hero after all.

“No Hyue, what are you saying?! You are already the wind hero!” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama, I understand that this is an emergency, but we were also right in the middle of a fight with our existence and pride in line.” (Hyue)

Is she talking about the past and new heroes match?

But that had reached a conclusion with the victory of Sasae-chan, right?

Due to the appearance of the monster, the victory has been postponed though.

“But you see, Hyue, with this problem that entails the whole city, it would be better to concentrate on this matter!” (Shiva)

“That’s right. Also, I already announced ‘it is the victory of the current heroes!’ before the monster came, so it has already been settled. I won’t let them make it unsettled like the time with the team match!” (Haine)

Shiva and I were admonishing her, but for some reason, Hyue was stubborn.

“Aniue-sama, Haine-dono; it is true that we have won the match. I do think that that fact cannot be warped and negated by anyone, however...!!” (Hyue)

“However?” (Shiva)

“My personal battle is different! I still haven’t fought that one!” (Hyue)

There was a ghost at the place where Hyue points at.

Woah.

No matter how many times I see her, she still makes my spine shiver.

It wasn’t a ghost, but the proxy wind hero, Brastor Juo.

She was here too?!

“Mirack-dono, Celestis-dono, and Sasae-dono got three straight wins, so my turn didn’t come, but I had the resolution of finishing things with her today! Anieue-sama, please give the permission to square against her!!” (Hyue)

“No.” (Shiva)

Shiva denies her fervent request.

“It won’t take long! 5 seconds! 5 seconds is fine! In 5 seconds, I will shoot her right between her eyebrows, and after that, I will show you that I can slaughter a hundred –no, two hundred monsters!!” (Hyue)

Why is Hyue-san getting so bloodthirsty?

Even though she is normally one of the most composed ones within the heroes.

Moreover, for a while now, Juo has been watching that state of hers and laughing ‘kusukusu’.

“...Interesting. In that case, I will make you into a beehive in one second.” (Juo)

“Oh, you are on!!” (Hyue)

Picking fights back and forth!

They are both at the neck of each other!

“...Good grief. These two are like this since long ago.” (Shiva)

“What’s with that sage look you have?” (Haine)

While looking at the two that are scattering sparks as they glare at each other, Shiva lets out a sigh.

“Our Toreido household and Juo’s Brastor household are prominent families of the Wind Church. Due to that connection, we have been acquainted since we were children.” (Shiva)

Hm?

“But the two didn’t get along since long ago. Every time they saw each other, they would end up fighting. Do you know how much pain I have passed being a mediator? When they grew up, Juo became a scientist and Hyue joined the Kazama Shinobis. However, this created a sense of territory in their jobs, so their relationship got progressively worse.” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama, that’s because...!” (Hyue)

While in the quarrel that had already escalated into a fist fight, Hyue raises her voice.

“It is this woman’s fault. Even though she is a scientist, she postulated for hero, and actually became one! Who knows how much it hurt the pride of the Kazama Shinobis who are the military force of this nation! And yet, this woman, the moment she became a hero, she shut herself in her laboratory! She didn’t do her job as a hero at all!” (Hyue)

Hah...

“The higher-ups of the Church all settled in the decision of ‘discharging her’, and yet, only Aniue-sama protected her! Isn’t it the fault of this woman that Aniue-sama had to temporarily take the post of Founder and hero?! Saying that once she returns to society, you would be able to give that title back to her anytime!” (Hyue)

“Ugh...but...but...!” (Juo)

Juo raised her voice as if cursing.

“But Shiva-sama abandoned me and made a person like this the hero...!!” (Juo)

“Shut up! You should have been abandoned a lot sooner!” (Hyue)

The fight implodes.

Seeing this, Shiva once again lets out a big sigh.

“Juo.” (Shiva)

“Y-Yes?!” (Juo)

Shiva places a hand on her shoulder.

“In the past, there were times when I didn’t understand what you were thinking. You surprised me when you said ‘I will become the hero’ when I was appointed as the Founder, and when you became one, you shut yourself in and abandoned your professional duties.” (Shiva)

“T-That’s because...” (Juo)

“That’s why I was against it. It is true that you are a genius and are good at both researching and fighting. You most definitely had the fighting ability to be a hero. But your personality wasn’t fit for being a hero. You are scared of being in public, right?” (Shiva)

“Uuh...” (Juo)

Juo looked up depressed.

She still had that ghost look of hers, but it was kind of cute.

“Even with that, I took on the role of hero so that you could return to that position whenever you wanted. But because of the previous incident, I couldn’t afford to do that anymore. So I decided on passing on the title of hero to Hyue. But it was by no means something I did because I had no choice.” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama!” (Hyue)

Being spoken about, I felt like I heard Hyue’s heart skip a beat.

“Hyue had grown plenty enough as a wind gun user to leave the job of hero to her. In regards to the coordination with the other heroes as well, she possesses the most valuable trait that the heroes require from now on. Juo, this is something that you are the most bad at dealing with.” (Shiva)

“Uuhh...!” (Juo)

“But I don’t remember ever abandoning you. It is true that it was my bad for passing on the hero position without talking to you about it, but I do think that I need your help in the future, and the people of Rudras Metropolis as well.”

(Shiva)

“Shiva-sama!” (Juo)

“Wasn’t it you who created practically all the foundations regarding the moving city! Your will for research and those novel ideas of yours, they will be necessary for us now and in the future. That’s why, please stay by my side and help us out. The title of hero doesn’t matter!!” (Shiva)

“Shiva-sama...! I love you...!” (Juo)

“Hm? Did you say something?” (Shiva) <Hahahahahahaha!>

“...It is nothing.” (Juo)

My god.

Could this be...<the legendary ‘Eh? Nandatte?’>

Juo had told me something in person between the match. ‘There’s something I can’t give up on’, ‘I will have Shiva resign from his Founder position’. She said that because she had feelings for him as a childhood friend and wanted to be together with him forever?

She thought that she had been abandoned after Hyue had become a hero, and using this, Ates or someone in that faction fanned her on to participate in this.

And there’s no way Hyue, who shows signs of being a bro-con, would see this in a good wind.

“This matter has been wrapped up then. Hyue, I will be counting on you on the hero job.” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama, move away. I can’t shoot her to death with you in the way.”
(Hyue)

“Don’t shoot.” (Shiva)

I feel like I understand now. The reason for the confrontation between the new and old wind heroes.

That’s why, I told Shiva this.

“You should just explode.” (Haine)

“I was suddenly insulted?!” (Shiva)

The Wind Founder is someone you just want to insult.

And Yorishiro who was actually here from the very beginning and was watching over this...

“This is a development that makes me want to puke-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

She was angered by Shiva’s dense headed attitude.

Shiva was bewildered by the atmosphere of irritation coming from his surroundings.

“What’s with everyone?! Did I do something wrong?! —Wait, ouch! Something hit me on my back! What’s with this cow?! Why did it suddenly tackle me?! What’s with that threatening pose?! Don’t go doing preparations to tackle me again!!” (Shiva)

Chapter 208: The stage of heroes

“Please let us fight as well.” (Karen)

The heroes of other churches were all inside the same meeting room as well, and Karen-san was representing them.

“The dangers of this world already have no distinction between churches. If they are in that place and have the strength to fight, we have to face the enemy together.” (Karen)

The head Shiva looks at the surroundings after that proposal. Earth, Water, Fire, and Light; all the other Founders nodded together.

“Then, I will be counting on you. As the Wind Founder, we are deeply grateful for the gracious deeds of you heroes.” (Shiva)

But...I was so worried. I couldn't just not ask.

“Are you okay, Karen-san? What about your injuries in that explosion...”
(Haine)

“It is okay! The burns have all been healed by Celestis-chan, and after the examination of the Wind Church, they told me that my insides are fine!” (Karen)

Karen-san pumps her fists to appeal her energy, but even with that, I was worried.

Karen-san is the type that would a hundred percent act strong in the cases when she is not okay.

Not only Karen-san; Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae-chan should still be fatigued by their matches.

The only one in the current heroes alliance that I can say is in perfect condition is Hyue.

“As I thought, I will be the one to!” (Haine)

In this occasion, I didn't do much and still have plenty surplus of energy anyways.

There's no need for Karen-san and the others that are injured to face danger. I can erase that thing in an instant with my dark matter and—

“Wait there.”

“Wait.”

The Light and Earth Founders grabbed my shoulders.

“Haine-san, I understand your feelings of caring for the well-being of the girls, but please spectate for a bit more.” (Yorishiro)

“This be the chance to push-sa ne. The biggest objective of the Hero Alliance be to have the heroes cooperate and face the monsters. We will be having ‘em witness this in the flesh.” (Oba-san)

Right now in this Rudras Metropolis, there's many people from the five nations who came here to spectate the new and old heroes match.

If five heroes were to cooperate and defeat the monsters and this were to be witnessed by those people, this will increase the authenticity of the Hero Alliance and the Contra-Reconciliation side won't even be able to breathe.

But...

“Just give it a break already.” (Haine)

I had to speak out strictly.

Just how much have Karen-san and the others pushed themselves today. They have endured underhanded tricks and strong enemies, and they are already injured all over.

It was all in order to push the political fight to the best of conditions for Yorishiro and the others.

But to make those girls fight even more for those same reasons, that would be pushing all of the burden onto them.

“Karen-san and the others have fought plenty enough! I will deal with the rest!” (Haine)

It was in the moment when I was about to leave the meeting room in anger, the girls stopped me who was plenty ready to head to battle.

“That’s unnecessary consideration, Haine. We are still in perfect form.”
(Mirack)

“For this full day, this place is our stage. Refusing an encore would be a disgrace as an idol.” (Celestis)

“Having something to cut be happiness-dasu! As an earth hero, anything that can be cut will be cut-dasu!!” (Sasae)

Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan...

The three of them have by no means easily won the fights against the previous heroes that were their seniors.

Rather, they won with their bodies filled with injuries, and yet...

“Haine-dono, we want to test ourselves. Just how far we can go with our combined strengths.” (Hyue)

Hyue joins the row with her wind gun in hand.

“We all know that Haine-san is the strongest. But please, watch over us just for a bit more. I want everyone to see that the five of us together are also the strongest.” (Karen)

“...”

I am by no means the strongest.

I am this weak against the straightforward light in the eyes of these girls after all.

...And then, just a bit after, we five were standing at the wasteland.

I -Kourin Karen-and my companions, totalling a number of five.

“Everyone, I will ask just in case but, are your bodies okay? There’s no need to push yourselves, you know?” (Karen)

“That’s what I would like to ask you, Karen. Is there really no problem with the damage you received from the explosion?” (Mirack)

“What about you, Mirack-chi? You were cooked by your Senpai, weren’t you.

Even now, I can still smell a slightly tasty scent, you know?" (Celestis)

"Celestis-nee-chan, it looked like ya won easily, but the exhaustion of divine power wasn't anything to sneeze at-dasu. The previous water hero be also a strong opponent-dasu!" (Sasae)

"Sasae-dono as well. The bandages around your body make you look like a mummy. As I thought, the unwounded me should hit that monster with the resentment I couldn't hit Juo with!" (Hyue)

In the end, it means that we all are wounded.

But it is mysterious. Our condition is at the worst, and yet, I don't feel like we will lose with all five of us here.

A half-transparent round mountain was approaching us from the front.

"O~h O~h, it is getting closer, it is getting closer, the Slime-chan. Just like the information stated, the trees and stones that it swallowed have been melted in an instant. Looks like the moment you get caught, there's only death awaiting." (Celestis)

"Looks like it is the basic to take distance and attack from afar. But before that..." (Hyue)

"[Holy Light Sword]!" "Fly, [Flame Knuckle]!" "[Water Rage]!" "[Transmute] a rock around here and...[All In, One Shot]-dasu!" "Wind long gun technique, [Bell Bang]!"

From each divine tool, different elements were shot at long-distance.

Those hit directly at the surface of the slime...but the problem comes from now on.

My 'Holy Light Blade' cut through the surface of the slime and did some damage to it as it dissipated, but it soon regenerated and there was no wound remaining.

Leaving that aside for now, the fire of Mirack-chan and the earth attack of Sasae-chan opened a hole in the semi-liquid body and soon regenerated, but... Celestis-chan's water bullet hit the surface and didn't leave a single wound behind. On the other hand, the wind bullet of Hyue-chan was the one that

worked the most. It opened the deepest hole within the attacks of us five.

“It resisted the water attack and is weak against the wind element?!”
(Celestis)

“In that case, it is earth element?!” (Mirack)

The slime is an earth element monster?

But wait. From what I heard, the earth element monsters should have only been the Golems that were born from Grandma Wood. Moreover, Grandma Wood -the Mother Monster that is their very source-is gone and shouldn't be born anymore!

“The mystery solving sounds fun, but we should leave that for later.”
(Celestis)

That's right. At our back, there's the Wind capital Rudras Metropolis and the millions of people living there.

As a moving city, they can run away from the slime, but they have stopped that now and are a few ways back from us in standby.

In order to watch over our battle.

Everyone is believing that us heroes will definitely win.

That expectation, that trust; in order to not betray it, we will defeat that giant jelly!

“I had the Kazama Shinobis do the protection of the city. It is a true to the word fight between us five and that water steamed bun.” (Hyue)

“Just what I wanted. That is exactly the stage where the heroes shine!”
(Celestis)

The fight begins.

A flashy fight that will serve as the decoration to end this battle.

Chapter 209: Persecution

“So, how are we going to defeat that giant steam bun? I think you already know, but we cannot make it into tea and drink it, you know!” (Mirack)

“It is that big after all. In the test shots before, there was a difference in effectivity, but in the end, the opened holes have all closed.” (Celestis)

That transparent liquid body, even if we were to injure it, the body begins to regenerate soon after and return to its previous state.

Even so, if we were to do a big attack that blows away a huge part of its body, it might be possible to inflict fatal damage, but every time we fight, they are always in that level of size. In terms of raw strength, we wouldn’t be able to win at all.

Even if it is with the wind element that is advantageous against it.

“But, even when it is that water-looking, it is earth element. How to I say it, it is like unexpected...” (Celestis)

“This is no time to be leisurely observing. That Slime might be slow, but it is steadily heading towards Rudras Metropolis. We have to defeat it somehow before it arrives here!” (Mirack)

It is just as Mirack-chan says.

And in order to defeat the Slime, we can’t just push with brute strength. We have to use wits as well.

What do we do...

...Ah.

“Hey everyone. Doesn’t that Slime resemble a Golem?” (Karen)

“Hah?” “Eh?” “Dasu?” “What?”

The approaching speed of the Slime is slow.

We still had the leeway to continue our planning.

“What are you saying, Karen-chi? That rough Golem and this round water

Slime, there's no similarities at all." (Celestis)

"That be right, Karen-nee-chan! Just because they be the same earth element, ya grouping 'em up be way too far fetched-dasu!" (Sasae)

It was a storm of complains from everyone but...

"Hm, as I thought, they really do resemble each other. The part about them regenerating as soon as their body is damaged!" (Karen)

The Slime we are fighting now would pour its liquid body to the damaged area and it would soon fix itself; the Golems would use the stones and earth of its surroundings to make their body again.

"Both of them use two different things to fix up their body. That regenerating trait they have, I don't know if it is because they are both earth element monsters, but it is incredibly similar!" (Karen)

"That may be true, but what are you trying to get at with this?" (Hyue)

Hyue-chan has asked a good question, so I answered.

"Then, don't you think there's other things that are similar? Golems will regenerate as many times as they want as long as the Life Block that serves as its core is okay. In that case, maybe the Slime as well..." (Karen)

""""""Ah.""""""

Looks like everyone has understood now.

"That Slime might have a core as well, is what you are trying to say huh! I see. If that were to be destroyed, it would be leaps and bounds more efficient than just blowing it up without leaving any trace of it!" (Mirack)

"But how are we going to find the core inside such a big thing like that? Do we jump inside it and swim until we find it? We would be melted to the bones before we find it, you know?" (Celestis)

What Celestis-chan says is correct.

But I also had an idea regarding that.

"Everyone, hear me out." (Karen)

The plan meeting has finished.

Now all that's left is to move to action.

"Let's do this, everyone!" (Mirack)

"Yes-dasu!" (Sasae)

"Hindrance team, move out!" (Celestis)

Dividing the team in two, Mirack-chan, Sasae-chan, and Celestis-chan run towards the Slime.

Paying plenty enough attention to their surroundings as they approach, they stop at a place where they can still maintain their safety.

"Around here should be fine. Let's do this, Sasae!" (Mirack)

"Got it-dasu! [Magma Ocean]-dasu!" (Sasae)

The fire of Mirack-chan and the earth of Sasae-chan cooperate to create the combined element 'Magma'.

The ground in front of them became redder, and becomes accumulated lava.

"It is a lava moat! It is crazy hot. If you can move through it, try it!" (Mirack)

"With this, the Slime should stop moving its feet-dasu! That water steam bun ain't got any feet though, it just be a metaphor-dasu!" (Sasae)

What I asked of Mirack-chan and the others was to hold the Slime back.

While its movements have stopped by the lava moat, we continue our sure-kill plan.

"We did it! It is going smoothly! Everyone, do your best!" (Celestis)

And Celestis-chan who is at the back of Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan providing support.

"Celestis-nechan, ya be an extra-dasu! Putting it bluntly, there be no point in ya being here-dasu!" (Sasae)

"It truly is painful to get an enemy that your element can't handle, right? I am truly glad I am not a water element that would make me spectate because it doesn't work on the Slime~~!" (Mirack)

Leaving the defense to those three, Hyue-chan and I aim for the offensive.

“Hyue-chan, I am counting on you.” (Karen)

“Understood. Wind Gun Technique, [Echo]!” (Hyue)

Hyue-chan snipes the Slime at a slightly faraway location. However, what’s being shot is not the usual wind bullet.

“What the Wind Gun, En no Ozuno, is shooting is an ultrasound bullet that surpasses the hearing capabilities of a human. This resonates inside the Slime’s insides, and the echo that returns from it is caught by my ears.” (Hyue)

When I was hurt in the new and past heroes match, the proxy wind hero Juosan utilized the ultrasound diagnosis device.

By pouring a special sound into the body of a human, you pick up the echoes of it to make it possible to confirm the state of the insides without cutting open the body. A mysterious machine.

I thought that maybe we could find the core of the slime with that same principle.

“But Karen-dono really does impress me. To think that you would immediately put to practical use something that happened just today.” (Hyue)

“I also didn’t think I would be utilizing it.” (Karen)

It really is useful to experience all you can.

“But there’s a problem.” (Hyue)

“What?” (Karen)

“The structure of the Slime is a lot more simple than that of a human, so it is possible to locate the core without the use of a machine. But it is still that size. It is impossible to cover its whole body with ultrasound with just one shot.” (Hyue)

“Then, what should we do?” (Karen)

“There’s no choice but to shoot several shots at different locations to cover the whole body as we search. It would take time though.” (Hyue)

It is okay.

That's the reason why I have brought my usual flying machine and have Hyue-chan riding behind me.

In the time Mirack-chan and the others are holding it back, we will fly all around the Slime and shoot it all up!

But just as I was thinking that...

"Karen! Karen, this is terrible!" (Mirack)

Mirack-chan calls out to me.

"That water steam bun ain't fazed at all from the lava-dasu! It be crossing it normally-dasu yo!" (Sasae)

No way!

The lava moat that Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan made was crossed by the Slime as if it were a wasteland with nothing in it.

It is not that it isn't working. The liquid that touches the lava is making *fsst* sounds as it boils, but it didn't look like the Slime was suffering at all.

It is going straight at it without losing any speed at all!

"Geez, what are you doing?! You people are really useless." (Celestis)

"I don't want to be told that by you!" "-Dasu!"

This is not the time to get soothed by the retort of Celestis-chan!

Can we even manage to locate the core by the time the Slime reaches Rudras Metropolis?!

Chapter 210: Reinforcements Arrive

“What are you doing, Mirack?!”

“Eh?” (Mirack)

Mirack-chan gets a chill after hearing the voice that came from behind.

“Is faltering against an enemy of this level something a fire hero would do?! A hero only moves forward!”

“Sis Kyouka?!” (Mirack)

The previous fire hero Abi Kyouka-san has appeared in the battlefield?!

No, wait... I can see other people as well.

“Seeing a monster, mah old blood be boiling~. I can’t just stay put anymore.”
(Yoneko)

“By contributing in this monster subjugation, I can at least cleanse a bit of the shame I have faced today.” (Sarasa)

The previous earth hero, Yoneko-san, and the previous water hero, Sarasa-san.

“Yoneko-nee-chan, why ya came here-dasu?! Did ya leave the baby ta Sobochan again-dasu ka?!” (Sasae)

“We were also heroes and we been given back our divine tools for today, so not doing anything ain’t gonna look good~.” (Yoneko)

“And so, we will be joining in on this fight as well. Let’s go! May the Fire God Nova bestow us victory!” (Kyouka)

“Mother Earth Mantle-sama, bless us with bountiful strength~!” (Yoneko)

They rush towards the Slime.

Seeing this, their juniors get incredibly flustered.

“Uwaaaaa!! Sis, wait! Seriously, wait!!” (Mirack)

“That Slime melts all that it gulps down-dasu yo! If ya challenge it in close

combat, ya all gonna be left without even bones-dasu!” (Sasae)

Each one of them jumps at their respective Senpai to stop them.

“...Why do the former heroes only know of charging forward?” (Hyue)

Hyue-chan and I were looking at this from the flying machine.

“Fufufu... As expected of the heroes of other churches. They are all lacking neurons.” (Sarasa)

The previous water hero, Sarasa-san.

She walks forward triumphantly with her folding fan.

“The water folding fan has been fixed and is right back in action. If we can’t get close, then it is all about long-ranged attacks. My ‘Water Blade’ is right in that alley!” (Sarasa)

A high water pressure blade was released from the folding fan. This hit the giant Slime as if it were natural, and it disappeared as if natural.

“Eh?”

“Just saying but, that water steam bun is earth element. You and I are completely useless against it.” (Celestis)

“That’s just way too harsh!!” (Sarasa)

Being informed of this by Celestis, Sarasa weeps.

The ‘Water Blade’ that was blocked, broke into several droplets, and fell onto the lava moat, making *fsst fsst** sounds.

Those were the sounds of the water being instantly evaporated by the lava. And that evaporation made the lava fly around here and there.

“Uwa! Dangerous! Seriously, why did you people even come here for?! ... Wait!” (Celestis)

?

What’s the matter? It looks like Celestis-chan noticed something.

“...This might actually work. [Big Water Blade]!” (Celestis)

It was sudden.

Celestis-chan released a big amount of water into the lava moat, and just like the time with the 'Water Blade', it made an ear-piercing sound and lava flew around.

"Uwa?! What's wrong, Celestis?! What are you trying to pull?!" (Mirack)

"The lava we went through the trouble of creating gonna get cooled and return to being stone-dasu yo! Celestis-neechan, just because yer useless, yer lashing out of jealousy-dasu ka?!" (Sasae)

There's no way that's the case. Celestis is a smart girl. There's definitely a reason behind this!

"That's not it! When lava gets colder, it doesn't return to being stone! It turns into glass!" (Celestis)

"Wa?!" "Na-dasu?!"

The words of Celestis-chan made Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan wide eyed.

"The soil around here apparently has a lot of quartz that serves as a material to make glass. By making it into muddy lava and cooling it, it turns into glass!" (Celestis)

Well, it is natural glass, so in more exact terms, it would be obsidian though.

"When the idiot Sarasa threw water into the lava, I noticed it! Even when glass is soaked in acid, it won't melt. It might be the same for that Slime!" (Celestis)

"I see!" "Dasu!"

"You two, create more lava! I will cool it down and make glass! We will create a gigantic glass wall with that and stand in its way!" (Celestis)

Celestis-chan is smart!

But will it really go so smoothly?

"Sasae-chi, use your earth element to 'Transmute' the earth and make it easier to turn into glass! It will make the burden on you bigger, but I can count on you, right?!" (Celestis)

"Yes-dasu!" (Sasae)

“But Celestis, even with us three, no matter how much we do our best, there’s no way we will be able to create glass big enough to stop the path of that giant Slime! There’s no time to manage it!” (Mirack)

“Won’t it be possible? Because you know, there’s one more set of fire, water, and earth heroes after all.” (Celestis)

“““Eh?”””

Kyouka-san, Sarasa-san, and Yoneko-san were confused.

Looks like they took some time to notice that it referred to them.

“D-Don’t joke around! Doesn’t that mean we would have to match our divine power like you people in order to utilize that technique?!” (Kyouka)

“I don’t wanna do that~. Holding hands with this person!” (Yoneko)

In order to create lava, there’s the need to combine fire and earth divine power.

It is necessary for Kyouka-san and Yoneko-san to cooperate.

“Please!” (Karen)

With Hyue-chan still riding at my back on the flying machine, I requested this of them.

“People are in danger here! It has nothing to do with the Church or the matter of current and previous heroes, this is for the sake of saving people! Please lend us your strength!!” (Karen)

“!!”

Kyouka-san and Yoneko-san, the two of them were looking at each other displeased, but...

“Hm! We lost today! That’s why, for today only, we will stand by your ideals!” (Kyouka)

“...Since I became a mother, mah spirit has become brittle~. That city has lotsa parents and children in it too!” (Yoneko)

Both hands were linked.

At the same time as Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan who are in the same position...

“Damn it! Don’t get so close to me, it is just fine to hold hands, right?! Why is there the need to stick our body together?!” (Kyouka)

“That’s cause yer boobs are gigantic~! With things that big, they will definitely hit somewhere! If ya have such splendid things here, ya should just have babies and give ‘em their proper use~!” (Yoneko)

“If we are talking about big, that goes for both of us! ...Damn it, earth divine power is seriously pouring inside my body. What’s with this strange sensation?!” (Kyouka)

“It ain’t just divine power, yer heart be also pouring into me~! Fer someone that only spits poison from that mouth, yer crazy worried about yer junior fire hero all the time!” (Yoneko)

“Don’t let it out from your mouth! You as well, aren’t you thinking of that shrimp earth hero as if she were your actual little sister! You are thinking at the bottom of your heart about knitting new clothes for her!!” (Kyouka)

Uwa!

The two of them are mixing their divine power while fighting!

They were heroes in the past and quite the excelling ones at that. Their control in divine power might even be better than our current selves.

But that’s not the only thing at play here.

In today’s match, it wasn’t only the bonds between the current and previous heroes that grew stronger, the bonds within the group of previous heroes has also grown stronger —even if their mouths don’t say the same...

““[Magma Ocean]!!””

A torrent of lava gushes forth from two locations.

One side was letting out more lava than the other, but even so, it was plenty enough!

It all spreads around as if surrounding the giant Slime.

“Senpai, this time it is our turn! The earth heroes have ‘Transmuted’ it to make it easier to turn it into glass, so it is fine for us to just cool it real good!” (Celestis)

“Don’t go ordering me! This time for sure, I will restore my honor! Full power [Big Waterfall]!” (Sarasa)

The large amounts of water that Celestis-chan and Sarasa-san released were cooling the lava.

Water steam was raising densely.

As that happened, the Slime was slowly approaching.

If it passes before they are finished, it will be too late. Please, make it in time!!

“Mother, I be leaving it ta ya-dasu!!” (Sasae)

At the next instant, at Sasae-chan’s feet, the Goddess Golem appears.

It is the same one that she showed at her match with Yoneko-san.

The Goddess Golem, as if following the will of Sasae-chan, digs its hand onto the ground and lifts up the volcanic glass that has been cooled down and hardened.

How to say it, it was like a puddle of water that had been frozen in winter.

That giant glass wall hit the Slime just like that.

“We did it! It doesn’t melt!” (Karen)

Just as Celestis-chan thought, the Slime gulped down the giant glass and tried to melt it, but it looks like it isn’t working as it wants.

Due to the fruitless efforts it was making, its advance stops.

We finally managed to stop the movements of the Slime.

“This is a chance, Hyue-chan! Let’s go!” (Karen)

“Understood!” (Hyue)

This time it is our turn to move.

Chapter 211: One Stroke Bisection

“Hyue...”

Wa?!

A ghost from behind us!

Is what I thought, but it is the proxy wind hero, Brastor Juo-san, who was at some point in time standing behind us...in midair?!!

Her exclusive weapon, that wind gun rebellion of hers, had several of its spheres with ropes hanging down from them, and these ropes were tied like a swing, which Juo is sitting on. What a cute way of flying, but combined with those looks, it is still terrifying!

“You, what did you come here for?! We are in a fight with the safety of the Wind at stake!” (Hyue)

As always, Hyue-chan was incredibly aggressive towards her senior.

That reason had been established not that long ago, but because of it, our suspicions of you being a bro-con are growing dangerous, Hyue-chan!

“I can understand the gist of what you people are trying to do.” (Juo)

“Eh?”

“But using your wind gun to pour ultrasound to the target’s whole body... would take time. It is inefficient.” (Juo)

“What about it?! Even if that’s the case, we have no choice but to do it!” (Hyue)

“I have already positioned several of my wind spheres...around the Slime. If I have them all release ultrasound at the same time...it will reach all the way to the Slimes very center.” (Juo)

““Waaa?!””

It is true that there’s several spheres of that wing gun rebellion, and if they were to all release ultrasound at the same time, it would be a lot faster than

Hyue-chan who only has one wind gun.

“Hyue, you concentrate on picking up the echoes of the ultrasound that come back. You who use the wind long gun are better at looking and listening.” (Juo)

“Guh...But why is a work hater like you doing this?” (Hyue)

“I am also a resident of the Wind. I can’t just not do anything when the Wind capital is in danger. The people of that city that Shiva-sama loves...I also love them.” (Juo)

“This woman...” (Hyue)

“...Call me Sister-in-law.” (Juo)

“Like hell I will, damn woman!!” (Hyue)

Why are these two in such a bad relationship?!

Can’t they get along like Yorishiro-sama and I who are in a triangle relationship like them?!

“Right now we are in an emergency! Let’s ride on that plan of yours!!” (Hyue)

“Prepare quick. I am already ready to activate them at any time.” (Juo)

Being urged by Juo-san, Hyue-chan presses her wind gun Koumei onto her ear.

“Here it goes... Wind Gun Rebellion technique, [Tengu Cry]!” (Juo)

I couldn’t hear anything.

Ultrasounds are high wind waves that the human eardrums can’t pick up, and those travel through the wind to the body of the Slime, reverberate inside it, and then the sound bounces back out of the Slime’s body and passes to where we are.

Of course, the bounced back sound isn’t something that a human would be able to hear either, so I can’t tell.

But if it’s the wind hero Hyue-chan, by controlling the wind divine power, she can feel the vibrations of the wind that would normally be impossible to feel, and can manage to sense the slight differences in the waves that came from the insides of the Slime.

“—I have heard it!!” (Hyue)

Hyue-chan took a stance with her wind gun...and shoots.

Bang! Bang!

Due to the elemental advantage, the wind bullet opened two big holes into the Slime's surface.

Two holes that line up vertically.

“Those holes are a mark! If you cut those two holes as if you were to tie them together, you can cut down the core inside the Slime in two!!” (Hyue)

“Thanks, Hyue-chan!!” (Karen)

Jumping off my flying machine at the same time as I give her my thanks, I land on the ground. And just like that, I brandish my holy sword, Saint-George.

“Wait a moment...cut it, how? The ‘Holy Light Blade’ of the light hero would take its all just trying to cut its surface.....” (Juo)

Juo-san points this out in worry.

Her worry is logical but...

“Shut up and watch, Juo. Karen-dono has an ace up her sleeve!” (Hyue)

Everyone did their best to make the preparations.

From the very beginning, my job was to deal the finishing blow.

Even I have been growing as a hero as time went on. Just like how Mirack-chan gave birth to that ‘Fire Blade’ technique.

I also have a technique that I came up with after training with everyone.

“Holy sword that holds the title of Dragon Slayer!! Utilize my light divine power and become a sword column!!” (Karen)

The holy sword Saint-George, that I held up as if piercing the heavens, had begun to shine, and light divine power was released at the same direction the sword was pointing.

It was as if the blade had stretched several tens of times longer.

“Is that the...light hero's ‘Holy Light Line’?!” (Kyouka)

“But why is she releasing it up?!” (Sarasa)

Seeing the light I released, Kyouka-san and Sarasa-san were flustered.

But that’s not it. This is not ‘Holy Light Line’.

“‘Holy Light Line’ is a shooting technique that is released at the enemy. Due to the trail running from the blade, it looks as if the blade had extended, but in reality, it is not as if it actually did.” (Mirack)

“But what Karen-chi is doing is different. She has shot a more dense and stable light divine power, and is actually making a giant ‘Light Sword’!” (Celestis)

It is just as Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan explained.

The current holy sword that has been made a giant light sword has truly become that and is maintaining its form as a giant blade.

This is my new technique that I created with the help and training with everyone.

If it is with this giant light sword, I can slice this giant Slime in two.

“[Holy Light Bisection]!!” (Karen)

The light giant sword is swung down.

At an angle that properly aligns to the two holes that Hyue-chan opened, it enters the body of the Slime as it slices it.

“Oi oi, with that...!” (Mirack)

“It will be slicing that giant water steam bun in two!!” (Celestis)

Just slicing it in two is not enough.

Even if the liquid body of the Slime were to be cleanly cut in two, it would soon stick back together and return to how it was before.

That’s why I have to aim for the core that Hyue-chan and Juo-san have sounded out and cut it with pinpoint accuracy.

This is a single stroke that was created in order to reach all the way in its insides. But...

“Kugh!!”

No good. I can't stop the 'Holy Light Bisection' from dispersing.

In order to create a giant blade, there's the need of a massive amount of divine power, and the stronger the release, the more violent is the dispersion of it.

I have to fix that problem or I won't be able to call this 'Holy Light Bisection' as a perfected technique. I still haven't mastered my control in divine power to that point yet.

"As I thought, it really wasn't mastered yet?!" (Mirack)

At this rate, the blade will disappear before it arrives at the core! What should I do...!

"Good grief. What a flashy girl you are."

"?!"

The convergence strength of the 'Holy Light Bisection' has suddenly increased?!

Why?

When I glance at my back for a moment, there's the previous light hero, Sunnysol Ates-sama there?!

She is holding the handle of the holy sword.

"I will take the job of maintaining the form of the light sword. You concentrate on increasing the output." (Ates)

With the help of Ates-sama, the light sword has become stable!

"?!"

No, this is everyone's fight.

Right now, I have to throw away personal issues.

"Haaaaaaaaah!!" (Karen+Ates)

The light sword was swung all the way down.

...But it was suddenly stopped.

The Slime was sliced in two, and yet, it feels as if something or someone is

grabbing ahold of the giant light sword!!

Chapter 212: The Demon Lord appears

With the perfected light sword created by the cooperation of Ates-sama and I, we managed to cut down the giant body of the Slime from top to bottom, and at the same time this happened, its liquid body exploded.

If we had just cut it down, it wouldn't have ended that way.

With cutting which is, in a sense, the most cleanest way of inflicting damage, the liquid body would have easily stuck back together.

But that didn't happen and it dispersed into pieces.

"That means...!" (Celestis)

"We managed to destroy the core!" (Mirack)

The heroes that were around the place raised up their voices in cheer.

The previous and current earth, water, fire, and wind heroes were hugging each other without distinction and sharing their happiness.

"This is incredible, Mirack! Being able to defeat a gigantic monster like that without leaving a single trace behind! This is a first for me!" (Kyouka)

"Sis Kyouka! Even if you are happy, hugging me is just...! I am going to be asphyxiated by your breasts!" (Mirack)

"This is the first time I feel such a sense of accomplishment! It is leap and bounds different from defeating small monsters!!" (Sarasa)

"Well, that's the usual for us though~." (Celestis)

"Ya did well, Sasae-chan~. So the current heroes been facing this troublesome things all the time huh." (Yoneko)

"I be honored to receive yer praise-dasu!" (Sasae)

"I will praise you for the occasion, Sister-in-law!" (Juo)

"Who's your sister-in-law?! It would have been better if we had thrown this woman inside the Slime!" (Hyue)

Kyouka-san and Mirack-chan; Sarasa-san and Celestis-chan; Yoneko-san and

Sasae-chan; Juo-san and Hyue-chan; everyone was getting along as if the matches not that long ago were a lie —with one exception.

.....We were different.

I -Kourin Karen-and Ates-sama; within us two, there was not a single bit of sense of accomplishment welling up.

That's because...

“W-What's this response?!” (Ates)

“What's with this response?!” (Karen)

The strange response that resonated via the giant light sword that was still shaped up had send chills down our spines.

“...Dasu? Karen-nee-chan and the other one, why ya still leaving that light sword going-dasu?” (Sasae)

“You should just quickly put away that fuel consuming technique already.”
(Mirack)

“Karen-chi? What's the matter?” (Celestis)

Everyone slowly began to notice the abnormality.

I answered in a trembling voice.

“We are being stopped!” (Karen)

“““““Eh?””””” “-Dasu?”

“Our ‘Holy Light Bisection’ is being stopped by something! What's with this feedback?! It is as if a kitchen knife was stuck inside steel!” (Karen)

At the tip of the giant light sword, there's the glass shards that Mirack-chan and the others created, and the remains of the Slime, which was making the view unclear.

“[Flame Burst]!” (Mirack)

Mirack-chan blows that away.

And then, in the field of view that has been opened, the thing that appeared was...the figure of a human grabbing the ‘Holy Light Bisection’ sword with one

hand?!

““““What?!””””

No, that's not it.

I don't feel like that's a human.

There's no doubt that the silhouette was that of a human. There's two legs and two arms, there's also one head. No matter how you see it, it is a human.

But the surface of his body was bark itself. Moreover, it was swarthy and uneven like a tree that has aged for several hundreds of years.

A human that has that kind of surface would at glance be thought of as an old person, but that violent aura that was coming from him was not letting us think that way.

If I had to describe this scene in words, it would be 'a tree-human stopping a giant light sword with one hand'.

No, it is not even one hand. More accurately speaking, it was only the pinky finger. With just one finger, he managed to stop a joint attack between two heroes.

With just his pinky finger!

“What?! What's with that guy?!” (Mirack)

“This overwhelming aura! I think I have felt it before... Could it be?!” (Hyue)

It looks like something came into Hyue-chan's mind. And to tell the truth, me as well.

Within the new and old heroes present here, the only ones who have a memory of encountering someone similar to this are Hyue-chan and me.

From the back of the wood human, there were two thick branches growing out on each side of him. They had spacious ramifications and had many leaves growing thickly from them.

They gave the impression of wings.

As I thought, this presence, this silhouette; they are similar —similar to that Demon Lord Raphael.

“Congratulations. Good job in clearing my game.” The tree human says.

While still holding our ‘Holy Light Bisection’, he speaks without a single trace of pain in his voice.

“...Game, you say?” (Mirack)

“Yeah. I felt the presence of several different types of divine powers clashing. It looked like fun, so I wanted to join in on it. But just a simple visit would not have any class, so I planned something.”

And that plan was this Slime?!

That giant monster fell into the category of game for him?!

“Haha, I didn’t expect my exterior shell to be stripped off before reaching the city. You people are better than I thought. I was half in doubt when I heard the weeping of Raphael, but as expected, you are good as playing mates.”

Could it be...the core of that Slime was him?!

The Slime was clad on him with him at its center; it was a liquid mass of earth divine power?!

“Raphael, you say?! Then you really are...!” (Hyue)

He answered the shudder of Hyue-chan.

“I am Uriel. The Earth Demon Lord, Uriel.” (Uriel)

As I thought, he really is the same kind as the Wind Demon Lord Raphael that we met at Rudras Metropolis in the past.

The ultimate monster that is said to have been born in exchange for the life of the Mother Monster!

“This is a Demon Lord?! ” (Mirack)

“What pressure this is! I can’t move!” (Celestis)

“Honestly speaking, it be scary-dasu!” (Sasae)

Mirack-chan, Celestis-chan, and Sasae-chan who first met a Demon Lord couldn’t stop their legs from trembling at the violent aura of the Demon Lord.

“Damn it!” (Hyue)

Even the second timers which are Hyue-chan and I are in the same state.

“Oh please, don’t be so scared. I will be leaving already after all.” (Uriel)

“Eh?”

“Didn’t I say so? I just came here today to play. The moment the Slime exterior was destroyed, it was the victory of you people. If I end up getting serious just because I lost in a game, it would blemish the name of Demon Lord, don’t you think?” (Uriel)

Saying this, Uriel flies up.

The giant light sword had already been erased by his pressure.

“See ya, frail humans. Today was decently fruitful. Enjoy the short time remaining you have before being eradicated.” (Uriel)

After saying that, Uriel flew away.

Seeing this off, everyone without exception thought this ‘we were saved’. At the same time, this was incredibly vexing. The heroes that are supposed to be the strongest fighting force to defeat monsters are feeling relieved by the fact that a monster has spared them.

We can’t defeat the demon lords. We have once again been reminded that.

Then what was the point of all our struggles to unify until now?!

It was at that moment when I was about to cry in regret...

“Do you think I will let you go?”

The owner of that voice was...

“[Dark Matter, Set]”

Chapter 213: Winged Ones

The moment the Earth Demon Lord Uriel was about to leave, I -Kuromiya Haine-released dark matter and attacked him.

“Haine-san?!” (Karen)

I was drawn by the spirit of Karen-san and the other heroes, but I felt there was the need of an insurance in times of danger.

That’s why I hid and watched over Karen-san and the others.

But they managed to defeat the Slime on their own and showed their spirit as heroes.

It is plenty enough.

They have fought plenty enough.

The Demon Lord Uriel, this guy is an extraneous factor in the fight of the heroes.

There’s no need for those girls to fight this guy.

“But that doesn’t mean I have a reason to let you leave alive!” (Haine)

“Uwaaaa?! What’s with this black thing?! It is coiling around my body and isn’t getting off! Damn it! My divine power is being erased?!” (Uriel)

The Demon Lord Uriel was desperate in wiping away the dark matter sticking onto him, but it is pointless.

No matter how much power the four basic elements have, they are powerless against dark matter.

Have your divine power eaten up just like this and end up being erased like the Wind Demon Lord Raphael!

“Impossible! A Demon Lord like me that stands on top of all demons! To not be able to break off the power of a mere human?!” (Uriel)

“Your undoing was to appear before me unprepared. If you appeared here with the intentions of playing, then die on that pretext as well!” (Haine)

In the first place, we don't know where and when you guys will be appearing.

There's no way I am such a good person to overlook one when it appears right in front of us.

"Guaaaaah!! Damn you!!" (Uriel)

"Time to finish you." (Haine)

When I was about to pour a lot more dark matter to give the last push, fire, water, and wind divine power attack me.

"?!"

The dark matter that was supposed to attack Uriel was consumed in defending against those attacks.

On the other hand, due to all these elements dispersing in the surroundings, Uriel...

"Raaaagh!!"

He separated his skin as if peeling off bark.

The dark matter was still simply covering him, so Uriel had managed to escape from the dark matter that was still sticking onto the separated part.

"Aaaah! That was close! If that black thing had entered my insides...!" (Uriel)

His body that had been stripped from its bark looked like it had sap flowing down looking similar to cold sweat.

"...You would have been dead. It is because you didn't listen to my warning that you ended up in that way."

"I thought it was Raphael barking excuses after losing, but it looks like there's actually an unbelievable human. I am glad that I wasn't the one caught in that."

"Idiot. You played around too much."

Three more winged people came down from the sky.

The first one had quite the colorful butterfly wings; the second one had transparent wings that looked like fish fins; and the third one had burning wings.

With the addition of the leaf wings of Uriel, there's a total of four.

Could it be these guys are...

"Damn it. I will introduce myself one more time. Earth Demon Lord, Uriel."

"We meet again. I am Wind Demon Lord, Raphael."

"I am the Water Demon Lord, Gabriel. Nice to meet you."

"Fire Demon Lord, Michael."

The four Demon Lords that possess the four basic elements.

They have all gathered here?!

But...!

"Raphael, you say?! Impossible!" (Hyue)

Even when she was about to be crushed by the pressure, Hyue still howled.

"The Wind Demon Lord Raphael was defeated by Haine-dono there and Aniue-sama without leaving a single spec remaining! Because of that, Aniue-sama was...Aniue-sama was...!" (Hyue)

That's right. Shiva sacrificed his body to a point that left him unable to recover from in order to defeat the Demon Lord Raphael.

And yet, why did someone who calls himself with that same name appearing again?!

"Did you forget my power? By changing my cells into insects, I can live if just one is safe." (Raphael)

"Then...!" (Hyue)

"But well, it was harsh to have 237 trillions cells be reduced to just a few. Thanks to that, I now look like this." (Raphael)

Just like Raphael said, he had a completely different look from the time we met him.

His whole body is covered in armor all over without a single opening. It is a full armor that you can't see a single part of flesh inside.

The only thing similar to the Raphael before are those butterfly wings at his

back.

“By the way, I am sorry for the rudeness but, did we meet somewhere before? I have a tendency of not remembering humans that are weaker than flies, you see.” (Raphael)

“Gugh!!” (Hyue)

Being told that, Hyue curves her mouth in humiliation.

On the other hand, I was receiving the pressure of the four Demon Lords that had suddenly appeared.

With a single Demon Lord, all the heroes were rendered immobile.

And that has abruptly turned into x4.

“I have heard about you from Raphael.” (Michael)

The fire winged one spoke to me.

A scary big frame. A man that was clad in muscle akin to a mountain range.

“I heard that there was one human who threatened us Demon Lords. After seeing it for myself, I can now tell that it is a lot more than I thought. It was the correct choice to chase after Uriel who left with the intend to play around. We were about to lose another Demon Lord in our plan of greatness.” (Michael)

“Are you the leader?” (Haine)

I naturally asked this.

The fire winged one had an aura that was clearly different from the others.

“There’s no such thing here. We are Demon Lords. In order to achieve our sacred duty, we are simply cooperating. There’s no one leading and no one following orders within this group.” (Michael)

“Sacred duty?” (Haine)

“To eradicate humans.” (Michael)

It was low but the Fire Demon Lord Michael clearly said this.

“We declare it here. The era of humans will soon end, and the era of us demons will begin.” (Michael)

“The answer will come when the soon-to-come last war begins. I wonder which seed will survive.” (Uriel)

“There’s no need for two rulers in the surface world.” (Raphael)

“But well, the ones who will win will obviously be us though. Kusukusu~.” (Gabriel)

The demon lords who were speaking alternately were overflowing with dense contempt and hostility towards humans.

“There was no need to say such a leisure thing like ‘soon to come’.” (Haine)

Dark matter gushes out from both of my arms.

“I will settle things right now. You all, be erased together with the monsters by my dark matter.” (Haine)

“We can’t have that.” (Michael)

The Fire Demon Lord Michael answers in a leader-like tone.

“There’s still the need for preparation before the last war begins. Until the moment when that personage we esteem descends.” (Michael)

“That personage?” (Haine)

“The Great Demon Lord, Lucifer-sama. That personage is the very one who leads us.” (Michael)

Are you saying there’s still more coming?!

Don’t joke around.

Before things become more troublesome, I will crush these ones right now at least!

“You want to go no matter what huh. In that case!!” (Michael)

The four Demon Lords extend their arms forward simultaneously.

But their aim wasn’t me.

It was aiming at the Rudras Metropolis that is far at my back.

“We won’t try to avoid fights that we can’t avoid.” (Michael)

“It is true that you might be able to defeat us even when fighting against all of us. But...” (Gabriel)

“By the time we fall, the humans that are over there will no doubt be gone from the face of this world.” (Uriel)

“Along with those insects that are being pathetically prostrating unable to handle even our breath.” (Raphael)

At my surroundings, there’s the ten current and previous heroes who were unable to even stand up due to the sheer pressure of the Demon Lords.

Defeating the Demon Lords without sacrificing a single one of them...would be impossible.

“Let’s meet again, strong human. I will keep in mind that you are the only being to fear.” (Michael)

“Until the moment when Lucifer-sama descends, we will be enjoying our time in obscurity for a while more.” (Gabriel)

“You people should enjoy it as well. That important time of yours until the day of your death penalty.” (Uriel)

“Human that controls darkness, you will be eliminated personally by Lucifer-sama.” (Raphael)

After that, the four Demon Lords flew away with their respective wings.

The battle was over —without feeling a single sense of reaching a conclusion at all.

Chapter 214: Hope

The fight between humans and monsters is about to enter a totally new phase.

The Demon Lords all declared that there will be a new era where monsters reigned supreme.

If it is just as they themselves explained, the Mother Monsters should have all died in order to give birth to them.

“So there’s no need to search for them anymore huh...” (Haine)

In exchange, the fight against the Demon Lords, that are far stronger than the Mother Monsters, has become inevitable.

They have the clear intent of eradicating humans.

This is already not the time to harden our resolves to defeat monsters.

An unavoidable battle with the existence of humans or monsters as its stakes.

But...

“I couldn’t do anything!!!” (Karen)

Karen-san was crying in grief.

We were currently inside an ethereal powered car and the inside was currently in a dark sunken mood.

Even though this was after a victory, everyone here didn’t have a single trace of being happy.

This car was currently returning us to Rudras Metropolis.

“If Haine hadn’t been there, we would have been wiped out.” (Mirack)

“The problem goes further than that... Those guys, we weren’t even in their sight.” (Celestis)

“Dasu!” (Sasae)

“That damn Raphael. He was still alive!” (Hyue)

The disappointment of the heroes was serious.

The Demon Lords didn’t even consider them as enemies.

The confidence of Karen-san and the others, after not even being seen as insects on the ground, was in shambles.

Even though the previous heroes battle had been settled and we would be unified more from now on...

“Uhm...” (Haine)

I want to do something to encourage them.

“Wait.”

I thought about that as I spoke out, but I was stopped by someone.

The previous hero, Abi Kyouka.

The previous heroes who fought similarly in that battlefield were also riding in this car.

Excluding the light hero Sunnysol Ates, who had at some point in time disappeared, the remaining four heroes faced their respective juniors.

“Mirack, you are a splendid fire hero.” (Kyouka)

“Sis...” (Mirack)

The unexpected words of her senior made Mirack lift up her covered face.

“You had become far stronger than the time I knew you. You stepped onto a domain that I don’t know of. And after fighting together with you, I have personally felt it.” (Kyouka)

“Really. We be simply out of the times now~.” (Yoneko)

The previous earth hero, Yoneko-san, also speaks as she hugs her cousin, Sasae-chan.

“The era has separated into a completely different path ta one that ain’t having nothing to do with past or current. As expected, being shut in the countryside makes ya unable ta tell what be going on with society. And it made

me unable to tell how desperately Sasae-chan be working.” (Yoneko)

“Yoneko-nee-chan!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan had watery eyes while she was being crushed by the breasts of Yoneko-san.

“It is vexing to say, but I will be matching the opinions of the others here. Because it looks like the current trend is cooperation and harmony.” (Sarasa)

“Quack-senpai!” (Celestis)

The high prided previous water hero still had her stubborn attitude left.

“Celestis-san, you continue doing your best just like that. Since it looks like if you don’t do your best, my celebrity lifestyle will be in danger as well. So I have no choice but to cheer you on.” (Sarasa)

“Thanks! As expression of gratitude, I will send a signed color paper to your house with the name of your husband!” (Celestis)

“As I thought, I hate this person!” (Sarasa)

The previous and current water heroes were both as they always are.

“Your sister-in-law will be rooting for you.” (Juo)

“Shut up! I will defeat you before the Demon Lords!” (Hyue)

And the wind previous and current heroes were even more as usual.

“Haine-san!” (Karen)

Looking at this spectacle, Karen-san says this.

“There’s no time for us to be losing heart. Heroes are everyone’s expectation, hope. Even if we are defeated, we can’t just stand still!” (Karen)

Little by little, strength was returning to her voice.

“Right. No matter how strong I am, that is something I can’t do. That is something only Karen-san and the others can do. Become the hope of everyone, lift them up, and turn into their strength to walk.” (Haine)

That is the strength of the heroes, that is the meaning of heroes. The reason why the heroes are the strongest.

Everyone here possesses that power. No matter the element, no matter if they are past or present.

“We previous heroes will declare this here and now! We agree to your Hero Alliance!” (Kyouka)

Kyouka represented them and lifts up her voice in this cramped car.

The other previous heroes also nod in silence.

“If there’s something we can do to help, we won’t neglect our assistance in it! We have just been taught the scariness of the Demon Lords. Now that we have understood the urgency of the situation, we can’t just be taking it easy simply because we have already retired! But right now, it is your era! You people are the main cast!” (Kyouka)

“We be supporting ya people from the shadows~.” (Yoneko)

“But if you people are too disappointing, we will be taking the position though.” (Sarasa)

“Hiding in the shadows.....that’s a nice relaxing position for me.” (Juo)

This is the only positive effect that I felt from the appearance of the Demon Lords.

That is, in the face of an enormous enemy, the sense of unity from everyone has been strengthened even more.

Adding to that, there was also the previous and current heroes match that also deepened their understandings with each other.

The world, that had been apart before the match, is now increasing more and more in unity.

The car had arrived at Rudras Metropolis.

I want to have Karen-san and the others, who have overcome a series of battles, take a rest.

Thinking this, I had stepped out of the car first and was met with something unexpected.

“Karen-san, come out and see.” (Haine)

“Eh?”

“It is amazing.” (Haine)

There was a mountain of people.

It wasn't only the people that were spectating the previous and current heroes match at the dome. There were also regular citizens of Rudras Metropolis.

Everyone was watching the battle from the far-sighted camera.

The victory that all the heroes of the earth, water, fire, wind, and light had obtained by fighting together has moved everyone.

“Thanks! Hero-samas, thank you!” “We owe all of you our lives!” “Watching you join strengths in battle moved me!” “Hurrah on friendship!” “It is the time for the five churches to join as one!”

The heroes that came out from the car one after the other were showered by this welcoming.

I could tell that their hearts, that had been cooled by the terrifying power of the Demon Lords, were being warmed by this encouragement.

Their cheeks were flushing by that warmth.

“It is a triumphant return!”

That's right. The return of Karen-san and the others was exactly that. One of triumph.

They returned after a victory.

They probably have begun feeling inside of them that they have actually won.

The long previous and new heroes battle, and then the Slime battle that began not long after; overcoming them all, this was the moment that rewarded Karen-san and the others.

Chapter 215: Freebie

There were the women looking at the shining moment of the heroes from a step back.

The previous heroes.

“Showered in praise with all five heroes gathered huh. This is a spectacle that we wouldn’t be able to imagine in our era.” (Kyouka)

“But it be a nice sight~.” (Yoneko)

“It is certain that the era has changed. But I do have the feeling that it has progressed. At the very least it wasn’t a regression.” (Sarasa)

“...Too bright. It hurts.” (Juo)

Heroes compete and quarrel with each other; these girls lived in an era where such things were natural.

They once rebuked their juniors who tried to change that perception, but now it looks like a different view of it has begun to sprout inside of them.

That sprout can be considered a worthy harvest in today’s battle.

“...I will be returning now then~.” (Yoneko)

“Eh?! Already?!” (Haine)

The current heroes were busy interacting with the people, so I took the role of stopping her.

But...

“I left mah husband and older children at the countryside after all~. I already be in a mood where I be missing ‘em so much I can’t endure it anymore~.” (Yoneko)

I see.

The heroes that have already retired have their own family to mind now.

Today they pushed themselves to participate. We have to let them return to where they belong.

But then...

“Oi, Yoneko, Yoneko!!”

A throaty voice was calling the name of Yoneko-san somewhere.

I was wondering that as I look around and...a robust man was approaching here?!

“Ara!! Why are ya at a place like this?!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san made a happy expression as she jumped onto the man. And then, without minding about being in public, they kiss!

“Uhm...could it be that you are the husband of Yoneko-san?” (Haine)

Judging from the situation, that’s the only thing it can be.

“That’s right! Ya were supposed to be staying at the house. What happened?!” (Yoneko)

The husband-san that I could even confuse for a bear was making an embarrassed expression and gesture that didn’t match his big frame.

“Yoneko, soon after you left, the children began getting rowdy, you see. I was also getting so lonely I couldn’t endure it, so I ended up chasing after you.”

“Mommy!” “Mommy!”

From the back of the big man, two children peek their faces out. From what I see, they are completely twins.

“Even ya two! I be so glad. Mama couldn’t live without seeing ya~! Danna-sama <husband> as well! I will go get the little one from Sobo-chan right now~! With that, all the family will be reunited~!” (Yoneko)

Yoneko-san looks incredibly happy.

I see. I heard that Yoneko-san had given birth to her third child after around 1 year of having married, but the first two were twins huh.

When I heard about it, I was heavily disconcerted by the math not matching but if it’s twins...

...

.....It still doesn't match?!

"Sarasa! The rose that blooms in my heart!"

"Ah, Danna-sama!" (Sarasa)

What is it now?!

When I turn around to check the vigorous voice that came from another direction, I see a handsome man with a kaiser moustache hugging Sarasa-san!

"Danna-sama! Why are you here? I left the house without prior notice, and yet, why?!" (Sarasa)

"Sorry, Sarasa!! I didn't know you were so tormented by this!! I need you! Even if it was a political marriage, right now for me, you are a heavenly flower in full bloom! A pearl shining in the ocean! Even if I were to conquer the seven seas, I wouldn't be able to find a treasure as valuable as you!"

Could it be...that's the husband of Sarasa that was obsessed with idols?

"I have apologized to father in your stead. Everything is my fault. I won't be divorcing you by no means. Will you please return together with me?"

"Then, then Danna-sama! Will you be holding back your idol hobbies from now on?!" (Sarasa)

"Of course! You are my greatest treasure!"

"You will stop buying idol goods as well, right?!" (Sarasa)

"I will cut it off completely! ...No, how about leaving it at half the pace?"

"You will also not go to the live performance next week and will pass the time with me, right?!" (Sarasa)

"But what about the ticket I already bought?!"

For some reason, I feel a storm coming.

And just at that moment...

"Heya~! The idol hero Celestis appears like a maelstrom! You are the husband-sama that is always cheering for me, right? Thank you very much!" (Celestis)

“The first time I talk to Celes-tan in the flesh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“With what kind of timing did you decide on coming?! Go away this instant!”
(Sarasa)

It felt like the storm won't be leaving anytime soon, so I averted my eyes.

The husbands of the previous heroes huh.

They were worried about their wife and secretly came here to cheer for them huh.

Well, they must hold an important place in their heart. I can understand how they feel.

Is what I thought when...huh? There's an unknown young man where Kyouka-san is.

“W-Why did you come here too? You have your work at the inn.” (Kyouka)

“But I was worried about Kyouka-san. It is natural for a couple, right?”

Eh?

“Eh?”

Her junior Mirack was looking at the man and woman pairing with her pointed finger trembling.

“S-Sis Kyouka? W-Who is the man there?” (Mirack)

“What, so you didn't know? He is my husband. We married last month, you see.” (Kyouka)

Oi.

“Wait a moment please! Sis had been defeated by the Fire Cow Phalaris, so you retired from being a hero and was training all this time in order to vindicate your honor, and had just returned!” (Mirack)

“Umu. That's why, in the middle of my training, I by chance stayed in the inn he managed. From there on, a lot of things happened, you see.” (Kyouka)

The shy smile of her merciless predecessor made the expression of Mirack freeze.

And when I look at another place, there was Juo and Shiva...

“Shiva-sama...I love you...” (Juo)

“Hm? Did you say something?” (Shiva)

“It is nothing...” (Juo)

Right after, Shiva was once again tackled by the angered fire cow Phalaris.

What’s with this lovey-dovey atmosphere spreading from all sides?!

In this position where you would get crushed by that love atmosphere, there were girls in their teens who were sensitive to it.

“What?! What’s with this unsatisfying sensation!” (Mirack)

“They say that heroes are justice and that they don’t get angry and don’t hate, but just at this moment, I don’t think I will be able to protect that...”
(Celestis)

“Even though we fought with our lives at stake, why am I being attacked by this feeling of wasted effort-dasu!” (Sasae)

“For now, I will kill Juo. I will kill her before I kill the Demon Lords.” (Hyue)

The heroes had darkness spreading in their hearts.

“Well, it can’t be helped. 90% of the reasons for the heroes retirements is marriage after all.” (Karen)

At some point in time, Karen-san was standing at my side, moreover, she was holding my hand.

“K-Karen-san? Why are you holding my hand?” (Haine)

“It can’t be helped~.” (Karen)

“Uhm...”

“It can’t be helped, right?” (Karen)

There’s no way it can’t be helped!

If Karen-san were to retire now, it would be trouble in many meanings!

Please refrain!

TLN: And with this, the arc ends and the 'Light God Hero Arc' will begin. Don't know what it is about, but it sounds awesome.

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